

Press Release

Katharina Grosse

I Set Out, I Walked Fast

22 April – 31 May 2026

White Cube Bermondsey

White Cube Bermondsey opens a major exhibition of works by Katharina Grosse (b. 1961, Freiburg/Breisgau, Germany) in April 2026, titled 'I Set Out, I Walked Fast'. Encompassing the breadth and scale of her expansive practice, the presentation spans an immersive painting created in situ, new paintings and a painted bronze work, alongside rarely seen canvases from the artist's personal archive, which are interspersed throughout.

The exhibition title is drawn from Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre* (1847), which Grosse read while in New Zealand/Aotearoa last summer. It evokes a sense of urgency – the impulse to keep moving forward, to resist expectations and to embrace the unpredictability of chance encounters.

Following her representation by the gallery in November 2025, this debut exhibition comes almost a decade after Grosse's major UK presentation, 'This Drove my Mother up the Wall', at the South London Gallery in 2017. It also renews her connection with White Cube following her first project with the gallery in 2002 at its former Hoxton Square location in East London.

Driven by her 'unruly impulse to take over space with painting, to trespass', Grosse sees the world as a site for painting, transforming all manner of surfaces – canvas, landscapes, architecture – using colour as a force to activate space, heighten perception, and reconfigure our relationships to the environment and one another. Her use of an industrial spray gun serves as 'a conceptual extension of the brush', allowing her to accelerate her reach across the surface.

Since the late 1990s, the artist has developed a painting practice that produces expansive, gestural marks that register both the image and the movement of the body that creates it.

Just as Grosse conceives of her practice as a spider web, with each work elastically generating new possibilities, the exhibition is organised to offer a multitude of ways to navigate the gallery. Moving away from the seriality explored in recent years, when Grosse would test and re-test ideas, the new work is more simplified, raw and unfiltered. 'There is no pictorial space anymore in the sense of depth or distance', she has said. 'The canvas has become a site, showing the accidentality of two incoherent, yet interdependent acts of

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intention. The way colour exposes those acts is new for me: colour becomes a multi-faceted composite that renders the acts of painting hyper-realistic.'

Unbound to any particular surface, Grosse considers each painting a temporary ecology in which artist, site and viewer converge. She conceives the relationship between her canvases and in-situ work as dialogic, rather than hierarchical, comparing it to 'the difference between swimming in a pool and swimming in the sea'.

'Katharina Grosse: I Set Out, I Walked Fast' is on view at White Cube Bermondsey, London, from 22 April until 31 May 2026. In September 2026, Grosse will open 'Black Bed' at MUNCH in Oslo, debuting a new installation that reimagines one of her important early works, *Das Bett* (2004), in which she spray-painted her bedroom in Düsseldorf. With Munch's monumental painting *The Sun* (1912-1913) as her anchor point, *Black Bed* is presented alongside Grosse's new paintings made during her residency at Munch's studio in Ekely, Oslo, in the lead-up to the exhibition.

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Notes to Editors:

- Grosse was born in 1961 in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany and lives and works in Berlin and New Zealand/Aotearoa. Her work has been widely exhibited internationally, with exhibitions and major projects at Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany (2025); Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany (2025); Centre Pompidou-Metz, France (2024); Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin, Germany (2020); Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland (2020); Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2019); K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2018); MoMA PS1, Fort Tilden, Queens, New York (2016); South London Gallery, UK (2017); Venice Biennale, Italy (2015); Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas (2013); De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art, Tilburg, the Netherlands (2013); Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany (2011); FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France (2008); De Appel, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (2006); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2005); Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, Switzerland (2002); and UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California (2001).

In-situ and public projects include *CHOIR* (Art Basel Messeplatz Project, Switzerland, 2025); *bLINK* (Public Art Agency Sweden, Gothenburg, 2025); *Canyon* (Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France); *psychylustro* (Philadelphia Mural Arts Project,

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2014); and *Just Two of Us* (Downtown Brooklyn Plaza, New York, 2013).

Her work is held in major public collections including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Arken Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen; Baltimore Museum of Art; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Istanbul Modern; Kunsthaus Zürich; Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany; Kunstsammlung NRW, Düsseldorf; Lenbachhaus, Munich; MAXXI – Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Rome; Museum of Fine Arts Bern, Switzerland; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin; Neues Museum, Nuremberg; Pérez Art Museum, Miami; Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; Sprengel Museum, Hanover; Staatliche Museen, Berlin; and Städtische Museen, Freiburg.

Grosse was awarded the Große Staatspreis für Bildende Kunst Baden-Württemberg in 2013 and the Fred-Thieler-Preis in 2003, among other distinctions.

- White Cube’s exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world’s most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
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