

03.03.2026

14.03.2026

A Salutory Spring

Gliding through the verdant
mess of tangled beauty,
the limb of time refuses

The vase precedes the compost

With the bedroom door cracked,
two horned owls call out in the blackness
discussing, considering, offering

The haltime show on the tv
echoes down the hall
As the wave-like din of a party rises and falls
God bless America(s)!

The present, unaware
of its solidarity with yes and no
attempts to sketch evolution.
Dormant seeds
already shedding their introversion,
stretch spellbound, towards conviction.

A dry crunch of a sycamore leaf
and the dog's face presses into the screen.
Somewhere between restless and lazy
I too breathe in the smell of the damp
warm brick and night blooming jasmine
Mimicking, learning

She devoutly believes
In the infinitude of beauty

Spring is no sleep walker



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Michelle Blade

Michelle Blade (b. 1981, Los Angeles) is a Los Angeles-based painter whose work examines time, memory, and the persistence of the natural world through intimate, autobiographical subjects. A third-generation Angeleno, Blade draws inspiration from Southern California landscapes, domestic interiors, and the everyday experiences of motherhood. Gardens, desert paths, domestic spaces, and interactions with her daughters serve as sites for exploring care, continuity, and the cyclical nature of life.

Working primarily with a wet-on-wet technique, Blade approaches painting as a durational and intuitive process. She revisits figures and landscapes over time, allowing meaning to develop through repetition and reflection. Using acrylic and ink on cotton poplin, she creates translucent surfaces where figuration and abstraction coexist. Figures emerge and recede within these spaces, integrated with their surroundings and representing universal states rather than individual likenesses. Their gestures convey moments of transition, vulnerability, and resilience.

Color functions as both a formal and expressive element, structuring compositions while conveying emotional resonance. Blade's work emphasizes observation, attentiveness, and the interrelationship between humans and the natural world. Motherhood and the environment are central to her practice, approached not as subjects to control but as relationships to sustain. Critics have described this approach as a "maternal sublime," in which care and attention become central forms of meaning.

Blade has presented solo exhibitions at Powerlong Museum (Shanghai), Asia Art Center (Beijing), Asia Art Center (Taipei), Loyal (Stockholm), Micki Meng (San Francisco), Wilding Cran (Los Angeles) and held group exhibitions at Marin MOCA (San Rafael, CA), Loyal (Stockholm), Loyal at El Royale (Los Angeles), Blum & Poe (Los Angeles), Simon Lee Gallery (London), The Bonnefanten Museum (Maastricht), Nassima Landau Foundation (Tel Aviv), Ju Ming Museum (New Taipei City), Xinjiang Art Museum (Urumqi, China), K11 MUSEA

(Shanghai), WOAW Gallery (Hong Kong), The Torrance Art Museum, The Center for Contemporary Arts (Santa Fe), and Rachel Uffner (NYC).

Artworks

Michelle Blade

Singular Bloom, 2025

Acrylic and ink on poplin

203 x 157.5 cm / 80 x 62 inches

Michelle Blade

Transient Pink Jazz, 2025

Acrylic and ink on poplin

152.4 x 122 cm / 60 x 48 inches

Michelle Blade

An Artist's Yard, 2025

Acrylic and ink on poplin

152.4 x 122 cm / 60 x 48 inches

Michelle Blade

Torches in a Storm, 2025

Acrylic and ink on poplin

81.3 x 76 cm / 32 x 30 inches

Michelle Blade

Within a Century on the Gabrielino, 2025

Acrylic and ink on poplin

152.4 x 122 cm / 60 x 48 inches