

Elizabeth Warfel

Escapist Tendencies

November 14 – December 19, 2026

Public reception: Friday, November 13, 6–9pm

Sprüth Magers, Berlin Window

Sprüth Magers

Born in 1997, Elizabeth Warfel grew up in an era of exponential technological acceleration. Her vibrant figurative paintings are informed by an adolescence alongside successive smartphone upgrades and the attendant rise of social media, and by an early adulthood in the confinement and virtuality of the pandemic. Having lived in Paris and New York, Warfel also draws on the social and visual life of both cities, as well as their rich art-historical legacies. Her oil paintings take up the multisensory places in which she finds escape from the barrage of information carried in our pockets: the busy interiors of bars, pool halls, casinos and clubs, spaces of spectacle and communion in which one can be swept up into the crowd and identity markers can be temporarily shed. Warfel paints these spaces as zones of suspension; she eschews narrative and invites the viewer to join her as both participant and observer.

Sprüth Magers is pleased to announce Warfel's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Staged in the Berlin gallery's Window space and visible from the street outside, *Escapist Tendencies* borrows this threshold logic: entryways and arches frame parts of the scenes on view, through which further spaces can be glimpsed.

Working wet-on-wet, Warfel lays saturated colour over a brightly painted ground, allowing the underpainting to seep through like the backlit surface of a screen. No device ever appears, yet the camera phone's presence is felt throughout: figures blur into shadow, the shapes of floors and walls warp, as if there were simply too much movement for the image to settle. In the cabinet, a grid of small paintings pilfers imagery from an Instagram feed to simulate the non sequiturs of the infinite scroll. Crisper than the larger scenes, these works translate the polished visibility of the platform. Flickering between familiar and unplaceable, they evoke, at once, a shared consciousness of the chronically online and the illusion of an individually curated identity.

Across both bodies of work, the online feed and after-hours spaces prove versions of one another: each a place to shapeshift between personae and perhaps briefly disappear, each promising release from the self while delivering a crowd. Warfel's paintings exist where digital presence and physical space bleed together.

Elizabeth Warfel (*1997, Lancaster, PA) lives and works in New York. She studied art history and studio art at Middlebury College in Vermont and the Sorbonne in Paris. She then studied painting at the Art Students League of New York. She was featured in the group show *Time of Our Lives* at Anthony Gallery in Tokyo (2024).

For further information and press inquiries, please contact Silvia Baltschun (sb@spruethmagers.com).

Sprüth Magers