



SOPHIE BIRCH

THE EYE LIVES IN THIS TEXTURE (...)

Opening reception: Tuesday 13 October, 6–8 pm

13 OCTOBER – 14 NOVEMBER, 2026

27 WARREN STREET

W1T 5NB LONDON

For her first solo exhibition with the gallery and in London, Sophie Birch (b. 1992, UK) will present a new body of paintings that move between the intimate and the elusive, where drawing, memory, and atmosphere become ways of thinking through states of becoming. Inspired by her time during her residency at Domus Nostra in Rome, the new works emerge alongside readings of Carl Jung's 'Memories, Dreams, Reflections' and sustained observations of the artist's surroundings.

Jung's image of the house as a symbol of the psyche becomes a guiding thread, opening onto a constellation of recurring forms: mosaic floors, skulls, houses, books, bodies, alongside her interest in the metaphysical architectures of Giorgio de Chirico. These motifs do not appear as fixed symbols, but as containers of psychological and imaginative space. Through Birch's process of drawing and painting, they become permeable, as though touched by the atmosphere around them. Forms seem to hold, conceal, or give shape to something that hovers between recognition and disappearance, inviting the viewer into a space where meaning remains fluid and unsettled.

Across the paintings, spatial logic is continually built up and dissolved. Layers of marks accumulate, are rubbed back, and painted over, carrying traces of duration, revision, and recollection. Birch's distinctive use of colour generates surfaces that flicker and shift; tones placed alongside one another create a subtle instability, producing the sensation that the image is still in the process of forming. Light appears transitional, like the moment before weather changes or day turns into evening.

Central to Birch's practice is an interest in potential and emergence: how sensorial and emotional perceptions are constantly changing, and how painting can hold multiple states at once. The canvas becomes an active membrane, simultaneously surface and depth, image and atmosphere. Echoing the recurring image of the open book found throughout her work, these paintings function as both pictorial fields and emotional portals—spaces that can be entered, read, and felt, yet never fully grasped.

Rather than offering a single narrative, Birch is conceding the exhibition as a series of shifting encounters, where inner and outer worlds mingle, and where the familiar remains gently, persistently strange.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sophie Birch (b. 1992, Littlehampton, UK) lives and works in London, UK. She holds a BA in Fine Art: Painting from the Wimbledon College of Art, London (2014) and completed The Drawing Year at The Royal Drawing School, London (2019). Recent exhibitions include 'Domus Nostra: 'Episode #1'', Alice Amati, Rome, IT (2026); 'Urban Dwellers' curated by Lawrence Van Hagen, The Painting Rooms, London, UK (2025); 'The Garden of Earthly Delights', Grimm Gallery, NYC, US (2025); 'Figures of Speech', Alice Amati, London, UK (2025); 'Twofold Vision', Baert Gallery, Los Angeles (2024); 'Panta Rhei', Alice Amati, London, UK (2024); 'In Praise of Shadows', Melzi Fine Art, Milan, Italy (2024); 'A Painting Show', Staffordshire Street Gallery, London, UK (2024); 'Fruit and French Windows', Calcio Gallery, London, UK (2023); 'felt cute, might delete later', Arusha Contemporary, London, UK (2023); 'Hawthorn and the Feast of Julian', Arusha Contemporary, New York, US (2023); 'Nobody's Home', Andrea Festa Fine Art, Rome (online) (2023); 'Primeval', Unit 1 Gallery, London, UK (2023); 'Folding Thresholds', dARTS, Paynes Wharf, London, UK (2022); 'OVERSPILL', Terrace Gallery, London, UK (2022); 'Separate Ways Together', 11 Sydney Mews, London, UK (2022) and 'A Plot, Hatched by Two', Yorkton Workshops, London, UK (2022). Birch completed the artist residency at Domus Nostra in Rome, Italy in October 2025 and previously participated in the Dumfries House Residency in Scotland in 2023. In 2022, she was shortlisted for the Contemporary British Painting Prize.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Alice Amati is a contemporary art gallery established in London in June 2023. The gallery is committed to fostering artists at the early stages of their careers, often providing opportunities for their first solo presentations in the city as well as on the international stage, while creating a supportive context for artistic exploration and career development. The gallery's roster currently includes ten represented artists. Since its inception, the gallery has staged more than twenty exhibitions at its London location while also expanding its international presence through participation in numerous art fairs worldwide. Concerned with encouraging transnational dialogues around topical questions within society and art, Alice Amati brings together British and international artists through a challenging, experimental, and rigorous exhibition programme. The gallery aims to operate as a platform for new voices in the contemporary global art scene, with a strong commitment to research, collaboration, and diverse artistic practices.

For more information, sales enquiries, interview and image requests, please contact: info@aliceamati.com