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Miko Veldkamp, 'Moonlight', 2025, Oil, acrylic and ink on linen, 76 x 102cm

Miko Veldkamp's standout paintings, featuring colorful scenes of everyday life obstructed by patterns, weave personal memory with influences from his Surinamese and Javanese heritage, shaped by his upbringing in the Netherlands.

Ghostlike silhouettes and shadowy figures drift across his canvases as if projected from behind. These forms allude to Southeast Asian shadow theater while also invoking the unseen presence of ancestry and lineage. "It's a reference to what comes before you—the idea of your lineage, your heritage, and something that perhaps you don't see [that] is hidden behind [you], but yet it's what informs who you are, your identity," said London gallerist Alice Amati, who is showing his work alongside that of American painter Abigail Dudley.

ALICE AMATI

Though tucked away in a booth at the back right corner of the convention center, Veldkamp's colorful, culturally rich paintings caught the attention of eagle-eyed advisors and collectors throughout the VIP day.



Miko Veldkamp, 'Outdoor Dining', 2025, Oil, acrylic and ink on canvas, 122 x 137 cm

"They mine his personal memory and experience, but then are overlaid with textures," said Jessica Wessel, director of business development at art advisory Gurr Johns, who first encountered the artist at Amati's London gallery. "It felt like looking at a batik scarf on top of a painting, so that felt like memory, history, and personal analysis [altogether]."

In *Outdoor Dining* (2025), for instance, Veldkamp sets a solitary figure with closed eyes in a vacant dining space, surrounded by empty chairs and tables. Light filters through a pattern evocative of breeze blocks, scattering circles across the surface, while translucent reddish silhouettes float in and out of focus. The result is a festive and melancholic atmosphere, where details shift between plants and ghostly presences, as if memory itself were slipping in and out of view.

Born in Suriname in 1982, Veldkamp grew up in the Netherlands and has lived in New York since 2014. A former resident at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam and a Hodder Fellow at Princeton, he earned his MFA from Hunter College in 2021.