

# VISION SALÉE

Vernissage  
17th July 2025



Bjorn Calleja, Maria Duque, Kim Lim, Luca  
Martini, Chengcheng Sheng and Damini Yadav

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*Vision Salée* invites the viewer to immerse themselves in a universe where light intertwines with matter, where transparency meets opacity, and where each canvas becomes a sensitive landscape suspended between clarity and mystery.

The title — *salée*, meaning “salted” — lingers like an aftertaste, a trace upon the skin. It evokes tactile and emotional atmospheres, akin to a crystallized memory. These images speak of fragility and transformation, of the tension between purity and imperfection, and of the fluid movement between the visible and the hidden.

Through their distinct approaches, the six artists in the exhibition — Bjorn Calleja, Maria Duque, Damini Yadav, Kim Lim, Luca Martini, Chengcheng Sheng — each summon a form of sensitive matter: a fragment of an inner universe, a texture of memory, an echo of lived experience. Their works explore painting and visual language as sites of transformation — where emotion takes shape, perception slows down, and the world reveals itself through layered surfaces and material presence.

## **BJORN CALLEJA**

Bjorn Calleja’s grotesque, surreal figures — somewhere between mutated avatars and ancient deities — inhabit canvases that oscillate between whimsy and depth. With vibrant color, chaotic form, and micro-paintings that populate his vast compositions, he stages a theatre of the human condition. His distorted bodies, humorous yet poignant, echo the alienation and overstimulation of the digital age. Through playful forms and layered narratives, Calleja captures the strange poetry of contemporary life — with humor as both critique and balm.

## **MARIA DUQUE**

In Maria Duque’s practice, painting is not simply a medium of representation but a material act of resistance. Her gestures — both digital and analog — evoke the texture of screens, but insist on the physicality of pigment, surface, and time. In an era of hypermediation, her works reclaim slowness and embodied presence. Through them, the artist reflects on how digital culture reshapes memory, perception, and our sense of reality, offering painting as a site for reconnection with the real.

## **KIM LIM**

Kim Lim’s paintings conjure mythic, dreamlike worlds where feminine power unfolds as intuition, memory, and quiet mastery. Her figures — part oracle, part hybrid being — emerge from lush forests and underwater realms, radiating presence rather than seeking it. Populated by symbolic animals, glowing flora, and ancestral echoes, her works reflect on the emotional landscapes women carry and protect. Through layered storytelling and surreal detail, Lim invites viewers into realms that are at once intimate and expansive — spaces where the boundaries between self, nature, and the subconscious dissolve.

## **LUCA MARTINI**

With a background in industrial design and a practice shaped among artisans and machines, Luca Martini weaves texture, light, and movement to explore nature and the cosmic order. His works draw inspiration from organic and vibrational systems — anemones, magnetic fields, dendrites, galaxies, cymatics — echoing sacred geometries and ancient structures. Using noble materials like wood, transformed by traditional craftsmanship and contemporary technologies, he creates forms that resonate with quiet power. Rooted in Argentine heritage and guided by curiosity, his pieces invite connection through touch, pattern, and light.

## CHENGCHENG SHENG

Rooted in ecological inquiry, Chengcheng Sheng's mixed-media practice traverses painting, moving image, and writing. Her work unveils microscopic narratives — urbanized birds, toxic family dynamics, the ecology of fear — layered through a speculative visual language. Drawing from dark ecology and climate fiction, her recent works probe “toxicities,” both environmental and emotional, exploring how invisible forms of violence — like slow change — linger and mutate. Her practice gently navigates what is difficult to articulate: a quiet, lingering unease woven into the fabric of everyday life.

## DAMINI YADAV

Damini Yadav's paintings are intimate tidal movements. Working in translucent layers, she lets energy, emotion, and form flow into one another, revealing divine presences, botanical rhythms, and submerged worlds. Her works pulse with quiet intensity, echoing cycles of growth and transformation. In this series, painting becomes a meditation — an offering to the sacred unknown, a tender witnessing of the process of becoming.

BJORN CALLEJA (b. 1981, Manila, Philippines) is a contemporary Filipino painter and interdisciplinary artist whose practice investigates identity, spirituality, and the politics of everyday life. Using perspective and scale as metaphors, his works explore the human imprint on the world. Drawing inspiration from 80s and 90s pop culture, kitsch, the internet, and the textures of Manila, he creates vibrant paintings, sculptures, installations, and animations. Calleja has held numerous solo exhibitions across Asia and Europe, including recent shows at Studio 11 Gallery (Rome), Tang Contemporary Art (Beijing), and ArtInFormal (Manila). His work has been featured in various publications, group exhibitions, and NFT platforms including Art Basel Hong Kong. In 2023, he was shortlisted for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize. He is also the creator of the satirical NFT project *Stoopid Avatar*, minted on the Tezos blockchain.

MARÍA DUQUE (b. 1996, Bogotá, Colombia) is a visual artist whose practice explores the intersection between analog and digital media, perception, and the influence of technology on aesthetic and cognitive experience. She holds degrees in Fine Arts (Painting) and Psychology from Universidad de los Andes and is currently based in Milan, where she is completing a Master's in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies at NABA. Her recent work, including the series *Gestos Alegorizados* and *Algoritmos Sensibles*, examines the psychological and cultural impact of screens and social media. By layering digital gradients with expressive painterly gestures, she creates works that challenge the superficiality of digital environments. Duque has exhibited her work across Colombia and was awarded the national prize *El Legado del Arte* for her innovative contribution to contemporary painting.

KIM LIM (b. 1985, Manila, Philippines) is a visual artist and interior designer with over 17 years of experience in spatial design, visual storytelling, and creative direction. She is the founder of the Kapit-Kulay Foundation, through which she conducts art therapy sessions for women in jail—encounters that deeply inform her painting practice. Her emotionally layered works explore dualities in women's lives: resilience and softness, trauma and healing, confinement and freedom. Kim holds a degree in Interior Design from the Philippine School of Interior Design and a painting certification from an Art Renewal Center-accredited program. She recently held a solo exhibition, *Teeth and Tenderness*, at Tang Contemporary Art in Bangkok. Her work has been exhibited at Pinto Museum, Underground Gallery, and in programs such as *Empower Her Palette*, a collaboration with the French Embassy and SPARK! Philippines.

LUCA MARTINI (b. 1995, Buenos Aires, Argentina) is an artist and designer whose background in industrial design, architecture, and aerospace informs a multidisciplinary practice that fuses technical precision with cultural and mathematical systems. Raised in Buenos Aires within a family of woodworkers, he developed a tactile relationship with materials like wood, concrete, metal, and plastic. His work explores themes drawn from astronomy, the Fibonacci sequence, Vedic architecture, and pre-Columbian monuments. Represented by Lado D Gallery in Buenos Aires, Luca has exhibited at Feria Puro Diseño, MBL Studio, and Via Viva Architecture. In 2025, he completed a three-month residency and solo exhibition at the Siargao Artiste in Residence in the Philippines, collaborating with local sculptors. His experimental approach is grounded in both tradition and innovation, often developed in contexts where tools are limited and adaptation becomes creative necessity.

CHENGCHENG SHENG (b. 1996, Xinjiang, China) is a visual artist whose work draws on ecology and the natural world as core sources of inspiration. She holds a Master's in Oil Painting from the China Academy of Art (Hangzhou) and a Bachelor's in Visual Communication Design from Shanghai Jiaotong University. Currently based in Milan, she is pursuing advanced studies at NABA (Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti). Her work has been featured in international exhibitions such as *Notes on Becoming* at Fabbrica del Vapore (Milan), *IMAGO: The World We See* at Domaine de Boisbucchet (France), and *The Art Journal – ZARAFa Art Proposal* in Hangzhou, sponsored by CHANEL. Through painting and installation, Sheng explores ecological memory, belonging, and the subtle tensions between human systems and the environment. She has received multiple awards, including recognition at the Inter-Youth International Higher Art Academy Youth Painting Exhibition.

DAMINI YADAV (b. 1998, Gujarat, India) is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, and curator from Malawi, currently based in Milan. Her practice weaves together painting, collage, performance, environmental art, and immersive installations, often grounded in the themes of embodiment, interconnection, and the relationship in Contemporary Art Practices from Bangalore and is currently pursuing a Master's in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies at NABA, Milan. In Milan, she initiated *The Body to Earth Movement*, an ongoing workshop series exploring movement, ecology, and collective experience.