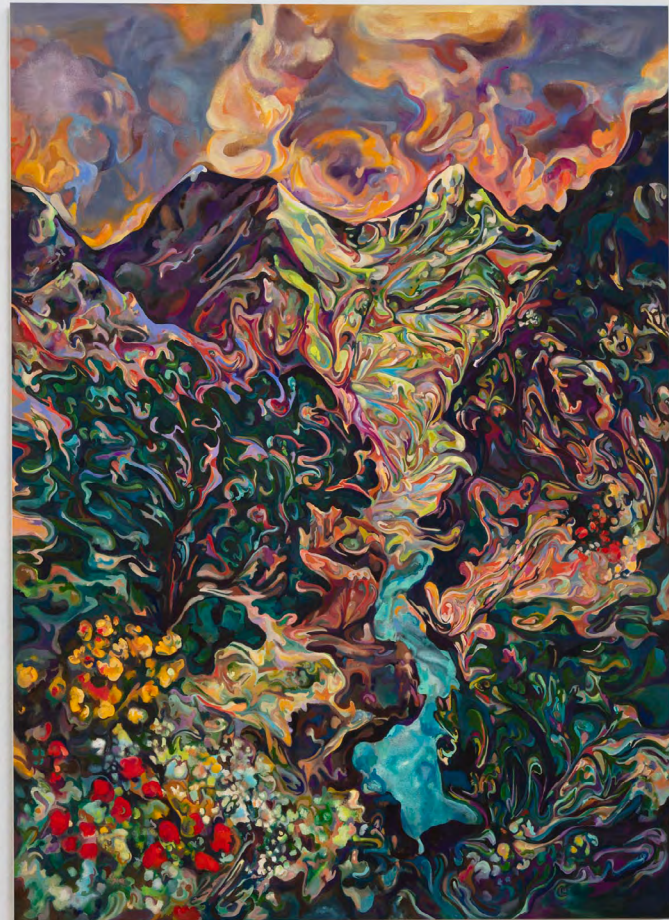
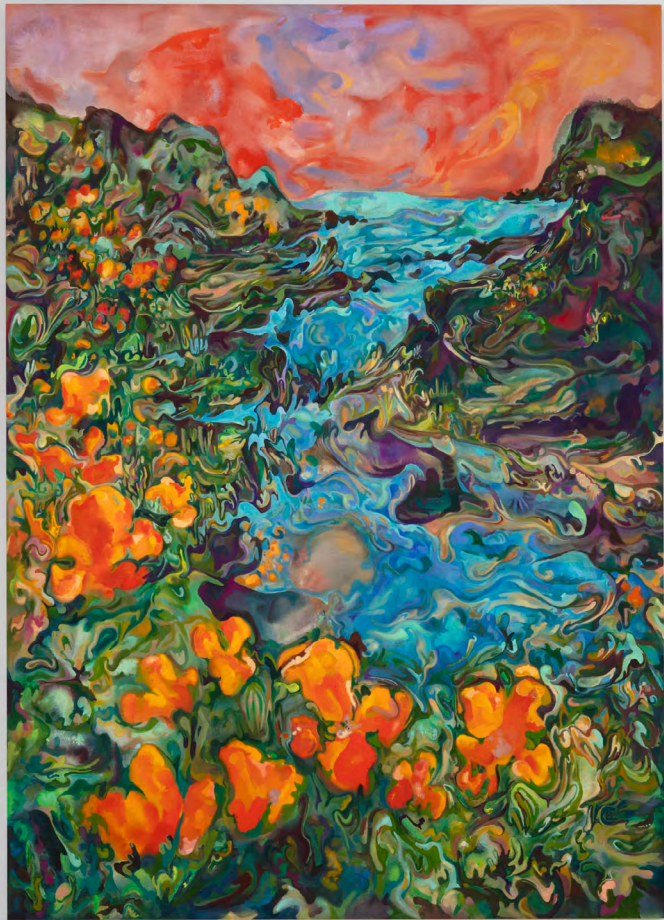


12 SEPTEMBER - 19 OCTOBER 24

Maria Calandra
The Seasons Bend



Installation shot of Maria Calandra's exhibition *The Seasons Bend* at GNYG Gallery Berlin in 2024

Maria Calandra

The Seasons Bend

12 SEPTEMBER – 19 OCTOBER 24

To Maria Calandra, landscapes are not only frames of the world. That is, landscapes are not only what we could call an organized representation of a natural place—real or not—done according to the techniques provided by art history, such as perspective, color schemes, tonal contrasts, and lines.

To be sure, her colorful canvases are indeed landscapes, but they do not depict simply trees and lakes, mountains and horizons. They are representations of something else entirely, more sensible than properly visible. Calandra's landscapes are not just the framing of what she sees—they are also the framing of what she feels. In this second exhibition with GNYP Gallery Berlin, Maria Calandra shows an incremental step from her last show. While then, in 2023, she presented what one might call a more straightforward representation of landscapes—the horizon line, for instance, was one identifiable and structural element, and now it is practically gone, integrated into the painterly vortex—she currently seems to be overstepping that domain. Still, she does not abandon entirely the reference to the genre.

The rapport to landscape representations across art history is still present, showing that innovations are made from the constant inquiry into tradition and not, as the modernists used to think, by sheer destruction of the past. In this regard, decreeing a blank slate approach in such a delicate thing as a landscape would be a little bit hypocritical. Therefore, by not doing this, Calandra's rapport with the genre's history is as much an ethical attitude as an esthetical one. To paint landscapes nowadays is to cherish our world and history. But how are these landscapes different? First, they are not only painterly representations of sensory realities like rivers, mountains, trees, skies, rainbows, and the horizon (all of these present in one canvas or another in this exhibition). More than that, they are representations of another domain—time (hence, by the way, the exhibition's title). Here, the delicate and tumultuous merging of colors and forms suggests the fundamental instability that pervades everything

out there. Everything is bending in and out of itself all the time. While we might be witnessing just the seasons changing—what would already be a formidable accomplishment, something essayed first by painters in the Dutch Golden Age, when turbulent waves and clouds expressed such a notion—Sure, one may claim that a tree is never just a tree, but in art what usually counts is the accent one gives to things. Maria Calandra provides a distinct accent to the dynamic that connects all things. It was never just a landscape.

João Gabriel Rizek



Maria Calandra
Eclipse over the East River
2024

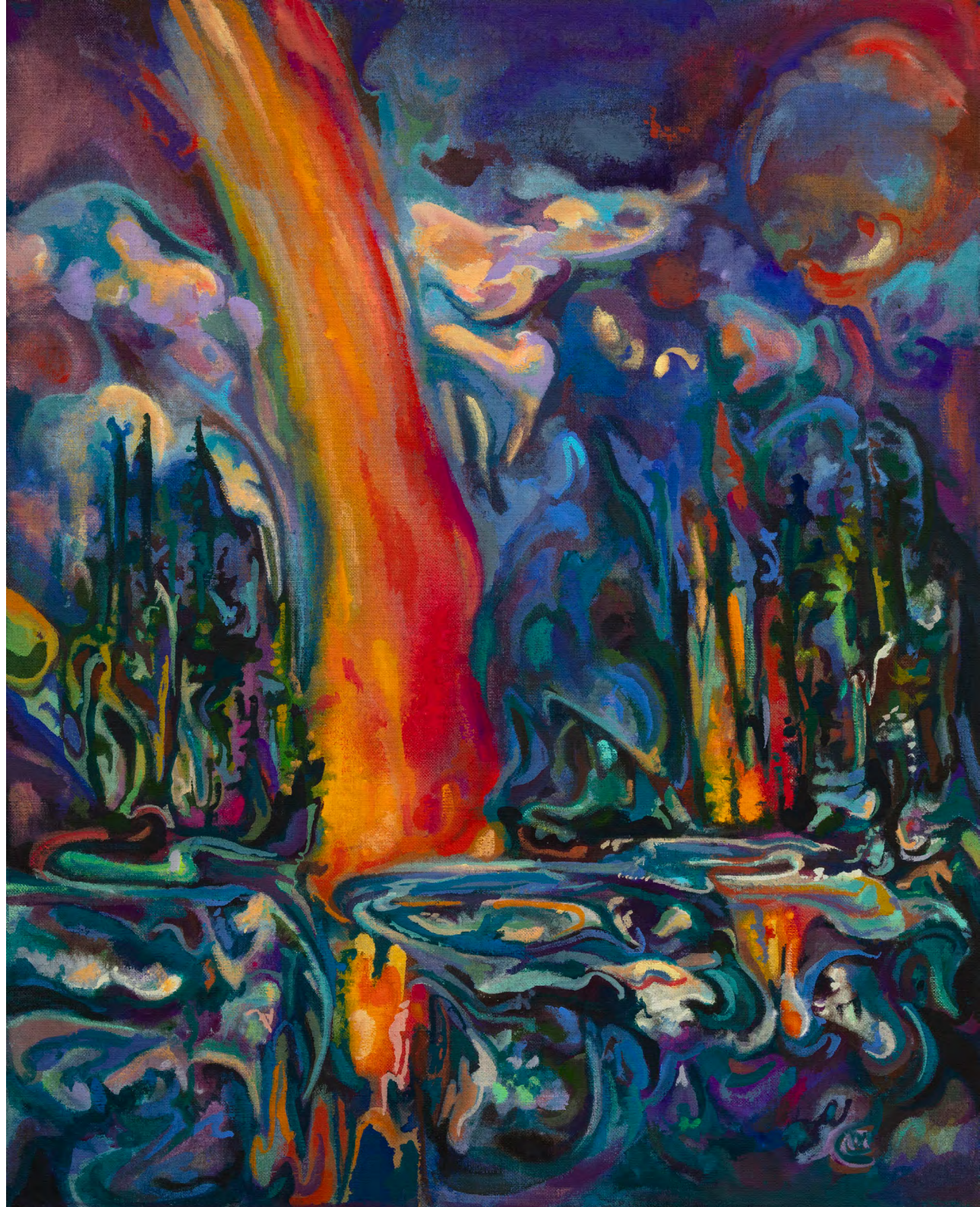
acrylic on linen

152.4 × 114.3 cm
60 × 45 in

Maria Calandra
Spectral Sunset
(Stonington, Maine) III
2024

acrylic on linen on wood

121.9 × 91.4 cm
48 × 36 in



Maria Calandra

Solo Exhibitions (selected)

2024

The Seasons Bend

GNYP Gallery, Berlin (Germany)

Chasin' The Sun

Fredericks & Freiser, New York (USA)

2023

Outskirts of Infinity

GNYP Gallery, Berlin (Germany)

2021

Walking in the Wild

Steve Turner Gallery, Los Angeles (USA)

Drawings paired with Pencil in the Studio Artists

Hope College, Holland (USA)

2017

Wall Drawing

Wythe Hotel, Brooklyn (USA)

2015

Maria Calandra - New Drawings

Sardine, Brooklyn (USA)

2014

SPACES

Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village (USA)

2013

Pencil in the Studio

Sardine, Brooklyn (USA)

2003

Recent Paintings

Frank L Melaga Museum, Brownsville (USA)

Group Exhibitions (selected)

2023

upcoming two-person exhibition

G/ART/EN, Como (Italy)

2022

Diamond Window

TURN Gallery, New York (USA)

Community Garden

Johansson Project, Oakland (USA)

Fluid Suns

G/ART/EN, Como (Italy)

Natural Selection

Room 57, New York (USA)

2021

Maria Calandra / Elizabeth Murray

Heroes Gallery, New York (USA)

Intertwine

1969 Gallery, New York (USA)

Spiritual Art Advisory

Greenpoint Terminal, Brooklyn (USA)

Downtown 21

La MaMa Gallerie, New York (USA)

2020

Beasts Like Me

Bronx Art Space, Bronx, New York (USA)

The World is Ending

Sardine Gallery, Brooklyn (USA)

Ho Hum

Bravin Lee Gallery, New York (USA)

Message/Mystery

Co-Worker Gallery, Toledo (USA)

2019

Downward Flower

Fourteen30 Contemporary, Portland (USA)

NY FURTHER

George Gallery, Brooklyn (USA)

EM-DASH

Ampersand Gallery, Portland (USA)

2018

Meet the Parents

Essex Flowers, New York (USA)

Three Person Exhibition

General Hardware Gallery, Toronto (Canada)

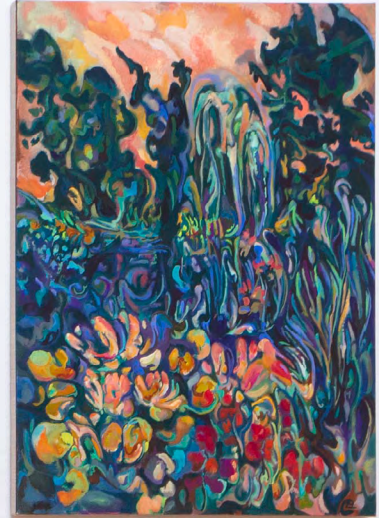
2017

Squared x2

Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington (USA)

Parting and Together

Greenpoint Hill, Brooklyn (USA)



Installation shot of Maria Calandra's exhibition *The Seasons Bend* at GNYP Gallery Berlin in 2024

Maria Calandra

A Beaming at Cathedral Rock

2024

acrylic on linen on wood

121.9 × 91.4 cm

48 × 36 in





Maria Calandra
Les Gorges de Verdon
2024

acrylic on linen

203.2 × 152.4 cm
80 × 60 in

Maria Calandra

Maria Calandra was born in London in 1976 and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. In her paintings Calandra explores natural landscapes with vibrant palettes and gestural shapes. Inspired by her wonderings in the wild, she translates into canvas the colors reflected on water, the twisting of tree trunks and roots, the repeating lines and organic structures of nature: “Channeling a stream of consciousness, I pull from both the real and imagined while using a form of automatic painting to guide me. I try to make connections between that which I observed and that which I remember. Some of these memories date back to my youth.” The result are paintings dense with detail, purposefully lacking depth, to which one’s eyesight needs to adjust, as if it were in the woods.

In her graphite drawings, made in connection to the ongoing project Pencil in the Studio, she depicts the studios and artworks of her contemporaries and the places these and other works exist beyond the studio: museums, galleries, artists’ homes, and collectors’ walls. Acting like a portrait and homage to not only her historical influences and the institutes they exist in, but also to the work of her contemporary peers. Calandra holds an MFA in Painting from Cornell University, and a BFA in Painting from Ohio University.



Installation shot of Maria Calandra's exhibition
The Seasons Bend at GNYP Gallery Berlin in 2024

GNYP GALLERY

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