

PI ARTWORKS

Pi Artworks London is excited to present a new solo exhibition by Aviv Benn:

And the Sky Cast an Eye On This Marvellous Meat

Curated by Tamara Admoni

9th - 25th March 2023

PV: Thursday 9th March, 6-8 PM

55 Eastcastle St. W1W 8EG

In her new body of work, artist Aviv Benn creates a dreamlike world of grotesque creatures and outlandish nature. The exhibition invites viewers to enter this mysterious realm, as each painting functions as a window, revealing another facet of Benn's universe.



Benn's paintings are illusory and delusive, with their imagery echoing a familiar yet alienating feeling. These are the markings of nature, not nature itself – a map of an almost recognisable land that remains foreign and elusive. The bright and colourful brushstrokes appear joyful at first glance, but upon more careful inspection, their resonance is alarming and unnatural. They lure the viewer like carnivorous plants and the flora camouflages the figures to the point that they almost become one, however, this is not a harmonious union. The robust and enigmatic nature is taking over the pictorial space, and the boundaries of the canvas can barely contain it.

Much like in sci-fi and fantasy storytelling, the allegorical narrative in Benn's work features surreal figures and fictive scenarios, but it is deeply rooted in our current times. In the work, as in our dreams, we can recognise the universal symbols and archetypal imagery appearing before us, but their juxtapositions and interpretations are obscure and indeterminate, inviting viewers to project their own meaning onto the work.

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The exhibition suggests a metaphorical journey into nature as a sojourn into our psyche. This exploration, like the nature depicted in the paintings, is surreal, bizarre, and even ominous at times. The botanical imagery is flesh-like and meaty: a reflection of our human form, our own mortal nature. These 'fleshy-plants' echo the fraught relationship between humankind and nature. What seems like a utopia, a magical and even humorous environment, is also a memento of mortality, everything that blooms under the sky will eventually wither; but until then, we have some time under the sun.

Aviv Benn is a London-based artist. She completed her MFA in Painting and Drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2018, and her BFA at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem in 2013. Benn has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions and art fairs in the US, Europe and Tel-Aviv, such as Raw Art Gallery (Tel-Aviv), Art Von Frei (Berlin), Devening Projects (Chicago), Pi Artworks (London), Untitled Art Fair (Miami), Future Fair (New-York) and more. She participated in artist residencies including Affect in Berlin (2014), Pilotenkueche, Spinnerei, Leipzig (2015) and the Vermont Studio Center (2019). She received the Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant in 2021, Rabinovich Foundation Grant in 2015 and 2019 and the Graduate Dean Professional Development Award from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2017 and 2018.