

I LOST SOMETHING IN THE HILLS

Opening Reception: Thursday 28th March, 6-8.30pm
158 Putney High Street, London SW15 1RS

Exhibiting Artists: Alexander Appleby, Esmé Naylor Farrelly, Henry Glover, Hugo Winder-Lind, Imogen Allen, Laurie Cole, Maggie Menghan Chen, Suhaylah H and Yi Liu.



Laurie Cole, *In The Winds* (2024), oil on canvas, 65 x 75 x 3cm

I Lost Something in the Hills takes its title from a recording by the German musician, Sibylle Baier. The folk song laments the loss of something intangible, yet inextricably tied to the landscape - ‘*Oh, what images return/ Oh, I yearn/ For the roots of the woods/ That origin of all my strong and strange moods*’. Although soft and elegiac, the song’s narrator is driven to near-madness by longing for leg-high grass, jasmine and ‘the slopes’. Baier’s desire to ‘return’ to nature, to somehow recapture an innocence lost, is an affliction that exemplifies the entangled relationship between humans and a ‘wild’ landscape.

Artists in the exhibition are brought together by these concepts of wild landscape, the elements and animism, seeking something resistant to definition. Placing an emphasis on embodied experience of the natural world, artists unveil the predominant genre of landscape as a projection or even myth. Two contrasting notions of Arcadia are brought into co-existence: ‘shaggy and smooth, dark and light; a place of bucolic leisure and a place of primitive panic..’ (Simon Schama, *Landscape and Memory*)

From the geography and mythology of Ancient China to the contemporary Cornish coast, *I Lost Something in the Hills* is an exhibition that, during a time of deep ecological anxiety, implores viewers to contemplate the symbiotic and reciprocal relationship between us and the natural world.