

VAN DOREN
WAXTER

Laurie Nye
Earth Flowers

April 28 to June 3, 2022
23 East 73rd Street
3rd Floor Gallery



Purple Iris, 2022, Oil on linen, 24 x 20 in.

Van Doren Waxter is pleased to announce an exhibition of nine new paintings by Los Angeles artist Laurie Nye on view at the gallery's 1907 townhouse at 23 East 73rd Street from April 28 to June 3, 2022. Nye's radiant, psychedelic oil on linen paintings are characterized by her interests in color, symbolism, and painterliness. Her brilliant palette, as Jane McFadden writing in *Artforum* asserts, "refuses any adherence to reality and brings to mind Fauvism's reconfiguration of painting's relationship to color." The show takes place on the third floor and is on view concurrently with an exhibition of canvases on the second floor by Los Angeles artist Joshua Nathanson.

A prolific painter (b. 1972), Nye trained in figurative drawing and painting at Memphis College of Art and earned a Master of Fine Arts California Institute of the Arts. She typically works on multiple large-scale canvases at once and during the pandemic began retreating to her family's quiet, verdant Tennessee home. The result is a body of smaller works produced slowly and one at a time on an easel in her mother's kitchenette. The highly activated, dynamic abstractions, mostly 24 by 20 or 28 by 22 inches, are affecting for the artist's vivid brushwork and concentrated use of color and line.

At a young age Nye was encouraged to cultivate her love of freedom, imagination, and nature; and she confesses a fascination with flowers, "dealing with flowers and reconstructing them and getting the essence," especially irises. *Purple Iris* (2022) demonstrates Nye's deeply felt feeling for the flora, as does *Spring Flowers with Moon* (2020), which evinces both her deft use of line to break up the picture plane and ability overall to create a sense of painterly space. *Sunflower with Birds in Lucy* (2022), the largest in the exhibition, glows and radiates and suggests a mythology or science fiction. Taken together, Nye's sublime depictions of the natural world are a place of self-discovery, connection, and celebration.

About the artist

Laurie Nye (b. 1972, Memphis, TN) received her BFA from the Memphis College of Art (Memphis, TN), and her MFA from the California Institute of the Arts (Valencia, CA). In December 2021, Laurie Nye's solo exhibition, "It Wasn't A Dream It Was A Flood," at Philip Martin Gallery (Los Angeles, CA) was an Artforum Best of Year 2021 feature. Nye's work is currently part of a group exhibition "Here Comes the Suns," at Bark Berlin Gallery (Berlin, Germany). In April 2021, Laurie Nye's artist project, "Chickasaw Moon," at Odd Ark (Los Angeles, CA) was the subject of an Artforum Critic's Pick. Laurie Nye's work has recently been the subject of solo and group exhibitions at Philip Martin Gallery (Los Angeles, CA); Bark Berlin Gallery (Berlin, Germany); The Pit (Glendale, CA), Odd Ark (Los Angeles, CA); Big Pictures LA (Los Angeles) Blake and Vargas, (Berlin, Germany); The Dot Project, (London, UK); Day and Night Gallery (Atlanta, GA); La Loma Projects, (Pasadena, CA); and Unpaved Gallery (Yucca Valley, CA). Her work has been reviewed in such publications as *Artillery*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Artforum*, *FAD Magazine* and *LA Weekly*. Nye lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Gallery Information

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