

# Pilar Corrias

Press Release

Sophie von Hellermann  
*Moonage*  
31 Jan–22 Mar 2025

Pilar Corrias  
51 Conduit Street  
London W1S 2YT



Sophie von Hellermann, Moonage, 2023

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Pilar Corrias is pleased to present *Moonage*, a solo exhibition of new paintings, sculptural objects, textiles and furniture by Sophie von Hellermann.

For her fourth solo show with the gallery, the artist has transformed the Conduit Street space into a dreamlike environment that channels the romance of the night. Von Hellermann has borrowed her title from David Bowie's track 'Moonage Daydream', which introduces Bowie's character Ziggy Stardust as a means to explore instinctual forms of creativity. Illuminated by lamps, upon every wall and surface von Hellermann's images glint and flicker, like a large-scale magic lantern that scatters dreams across the gallery.

As the viewer journeys through a sequence of spaces, a sense of drama unfolds. Lovers are caught in a tryst, ethereal figures surf the constellations, supernatural plantlife glows in the undergrowth, a group gathers for a secret ritual under a full moon. Hanging upon canvas screens, Von Hellermann's 'Maze' paintings offer a sense of stepping into – or getting lost within – an image. Stepping behind a curtain at the far end of the gallery, the viewer is dwarfed by a mural depicting the wonders of twilight.

Sophie von Hellermann's action paintings are imbued with the rapid workings of her subconscious. Applying pure pigment directly onto unprimed canvas, her use of broad-brushed washes imbues a sense of weightlessness. Von Hellermann's paintings draw upon current affairs as fluidly as they borrow from classical mythology and literature to create expansive, fantastic places. In subject matter and style, von Hellermann tests imagination against reality.

**Sophie von Hellermann** (b. 1975, Munich, Germany) lives and works in London and Margate, UK. She received her BFA from Kunstakademie, Düsseldorf and an MFA from Royal College of Art, London. Selected solo exhibitions include: *Poisson de Folie*, Galerie Sardine, Amagansett, New York, US (2024); *Out of Time*, Pilar Corrias, London (2022); Schloss Freienwalde, Bad Freienwalde, Germany (2022, commission); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Pilar Corrias, London (2020); and *Judgement Day*, Chisenhale Gallery, London (2006). Selected group exhibitions include: *Wild NM*, Centre for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico, US (2024); *Sirens: Sophie von Hellermann and Anne Ryan*, Turner Contemporary, Kent, UK (commission) (2021); *Mixing It Up: Painting Today*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2021); *Jahresgaben 2016*, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2016); *Watercolour*, Tate Britain, London (2011); and *Dear Painter, paint me...*, Pompidou Centre, Paris (2002).

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