

PLUS

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Bi-Weekly  
*Picks*

Featuring our favorite picks across art, culture, and literature, curated to inspire and excite.

**January 21, 2025**

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Ulala Imai. *ATLANTIS*, 2024. Oil on canvas. 89 1/2 × 71 5/8 in. (227.33 × 181.93 cm). Courtesy of the artist and Karma.

ART

## Ulala Imai

Karma

January 16 – February 22, 2025

Ulala Imai's *CALM* at Karma transforms the everyday into an extraordinary symphony of light and texture, blending intimacy with universality. Through fluid, unbroken brushstrokes, Imai imbues her subjects—a collection of toys, landscapes, and domestic objects—with a vivid, almost supernatural vitality. In *Atlantis* (2024), a solitary teddy bear, wrapped in a vibrant robe, stands ensnared in branches, its fur tousled by an imagined breeze as sunlight dances across jagged coastal rocks. Imai's meticulous yet unpretentious technique captures the interplay between the fragile figure and the untamed landscape, imbuing each detail with life. Even in works devoid of figures, such as *Calm* (2024), her glowing

landscapes hum with quiet animism, transforming snow, moonlight, and pine needles into sentient elements. As a whole, the exhibition creates a world of quiet wonder, where the mundane is reimagined as radiant, deeply interconnected, and alive with possibility.

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Emil Sands. *The invitation*, 2024. oil on linen. 38 x 40 inches. 96.5 x 101.6 cm © Emil Sands. Courtesy of the artist and Kasmin, New York.

ART

## Emil Sands

Kasmin Gallery

January 9 – February 15, 2025

Emil Sands' *Salt in the throat* is an evocative exploration of human vulnerability, intimacy, and the tension of belonging. Crafted from the perspective of an outsider—an observer who

may or may not be invited into the spaces he depicts—Sands’ work draws poignancy from his lived experience with cerebral palsy. His impressionistic tableaux juxtapose the expansiveness of nature with figures caught in moments of quiet connection or solitude, their postures echoing classical contrapposto yet stripped of idealization. Partial nudity and exaggerated forms emphasize individuality and eccentricity, resisting voyeurism while encouraging a contemplative gaze. Through luminous brushwork, Sands reimagines the outdoors not as a site of limitation but as a charged realm of freedom, offering a tender revision of strained memories. In doing so, he reminds us of painting’s profound capacity to transform the act of observation into one of liberation and renewal.

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Photo: Sean Davidson

## CULTURE



# Gem Home

181 Mott St, New York

Gem Home, the latest venture from acclaimed chef Flynn McGarry, is a unique fusion of café, grocery, and homewares store. Combining artisanal food with curated home goods, it offers a rotating selection of local produce, gourmet items, and handmade ceramics. Visitors can enjoy seasonal, plant-forward dishes while perusing carefully sourced products like vintage vases, sterling spoons, and exclusive hand soaps. With a design inspired by mid-century utilitarian furniture, Gem Home shifts its offerings and ambiance throughout the year, creating an evolving experience that feels both welcoming and sophisticated.



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