

Private Garden

Alessandro Miotti, Daniella Portillo, Jiashun Zhou

Bahrain show Nov - Dec 2025

The exhibition *Private Garden* explores the relationship between inner freedom and the conditions that allow it to flourish. Here, the garden becomes a metaphor and an ideal. Historically, the garden has been both a divine enclosure and a site of human growth, in which nature and order coexist and proceed in the same dimension. In this exhibition, it represents a metaphorical terrain for self-expression and a symbolic architecture of protection that nurtures artistic instincts.

Within this enclosure, artists reveal what it means to inhabit a personal sanctuary. Each work acts as a window of vision into an internal landscape, in which safety is a physical space and at the same time a perceptual and emotional condition that enables openness, imagination and play. In *Private Garden*, the act of looking is treated as an embodied motion that moves between an invitation to come closer and a degree of necessary distance.

Through painting and textile, Daniella Portillo, Alessandro Miotti and Jiashun Zhou tend to their own version of inner garden — a space of reflection, withdrawal, resistance and renewal.

Jiashun Zhou is an American artist born in 1998 in Chicago, USA. Through a conscious use of textile art, he reimagines memory as a sensory experience, capturing the feelings physical spaces evoke — how smell, distance and touch shape recollection. Each thread and interweaving acts as a sensory echo, redefining space as a fluid extension of himself, shaped by presence and interaction. In his practice, Zhou explores how space contributes to personal identity and collective memory, using weaving as a stage in which an internal landscape appears in the form of the cities visited, the homes inhabited and the natural details observed. The work unfolds as an intimate conversation with physical space and the affections that it holds, evoking the beauty of human connection and the emotional traces it leaves behind.

Jiashun Zhou obtained a BFA in Fiber and Textile at the University of the Arts Philadelphia in 2023 and he is currently pursuing an MFA in Fibre and Material Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2025.

Alessandro Miotti's work centres around fantastical, canine-like creatures and human prototypes of masculinity, whose expressiveness emerge from the artist's emotional states, instinct and innate sense of proportion. Composed by dogs and cowboys, his repertoire balances structural clarity with visceral impulse, giving form to figures that embody the many facets of human character, while remaining true to their own nature. Echoing the emotionally charged bestiary repertoire of Antonio Ligabue, Miotti's vigilant, tender and playful muses roam the landscapes of his childhood as uncrowned kings — figures in which human feeling and instinct fuse into an organic and layered artistic language.

Alessandro Miotti currently lives and works in Venice and is a member of the artist-run studio «zolforosso.» He graduated in 2023 from the Venice Academy of Fine Arts in Visual Arts Level II under the tutelage of professors Carlo Di Raco and Martino Scavezzon. Group shows and online presentations include: [ahr-kahyv], with Pieter Jan De Paepe in Ghent, Belgium; *Salon Palermo 3* at Rizzuto Gallery, curated by Antonio Grulli and Francesco de Grandi; *Lupia*, 2024 (online presentation) with Samuele Visentin, London, UK; *The Secret Garden*, 2024 at 11 Contemporary Art Center, Shenzhen, China; *The Record of a Split* (2025) with Samuele Visentin, London, UK; *Another Man's Trasure* (2025) with Mariposa Drive Gallery in Aspen, Colorado, USA; *Moonkillers* (2025) with Tommaso Calabro Gallery in Venice, Italy. The artist is currently artist in residence at Palazzo Monti, Brescia. He has two upcoming solo shows, respectively with Tommaso Calabro Gallery in Milan, Italy (2026) curated by Samuele Visentin and with Mariposa Drive, Los Angeles, USA (2027) curated by Samuele Visentin.

Daniella Portillo's paintings explore the emotional terrain of her native land — El Salvador, through muted palettes, distinctive brushwork and masterful light techniques that balance representation and abstraction. Portillo's works reflect her personal journey since emigrating to the United States in 2004 amid political unrest. A pivotal 2018 return to her childhood home sparked this compelling series, transforming the view from her grandfather's house into rich fields of subconscious exploration now created in her New Jersey studio. Working without preliminary sketches or photographs, Portillo approaches each canvas instinctively, guided by her remarkable sensitivity to light and colour. Her paintings blur distinctions between water and land, storms and volcanic activity, creating an intentional ambiguity that captures the essence of memory itself.

Daniella Portillo was born in 1997 in El Salvador. She currently lives and works in New Jersey, USA. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Storage Gallery in New York City, NY (2020), James Fuentes Gallery in New York City, NY (2022), Samuele Visentin in London, UK (2023) and Opera Gallery in London, UK (2025). Her work has been featured in group exhibitions at The Clemente Center in New York City, NY (2022) and The Painting Center in New York City, NY (2022). She was artist-in-residence at Long Meadow Art Residency in 2024.