

**NICOLA  
VASSELL**

Opening September 7, 6–8 pm  
September 7 – October 21, 2023



**GEORGE ROUY**

*E n d l e s s*

*Song*

Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Saturday, 10 am–6 pm

138 10th Ave. New York, NY 10011

For Press Inquiries

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Nicola Vassell is pleased to present *Endless Song*, a solo exhibition of new works by the UK-based painter George Rouy, who propels his ongoing exploration into the human condition and primal emotions into a spectrum of intensity. Within each of his vibrant and vertiginous paintings, he renders a collective of figures who ricochet, compositionally and conceptually, through a vortex of oppositional forces. Rouy is a virtuoso of the in-betweens: an undefined space where the intimate encounters the detached, the serene grazes the violent, and the platonic traces the erotic.

Defying the figurative tradition of drafting from reference and aspiring to resemblance, Rouy's practice is a process of elucidating sensations and locomotion. He begins with the concept of photography, considering the ways in which the medium distorts more than it documents, and how an oversaturation of online media can result in a pictorial blur—the abstracted image as composite memory. Thereafter, his canvases become morphing muses. He alters his subjects—defacing, refacing, and warping them—until a cryptic harmony emerges.

Rouy considers a work complete when there is an equilibrium of contrast. His palate sways across a range of colors—a base of grayscale and skin-tone shades cloaked with succulent pinks, reds, and greens. In constant flux, his brushstrokes swerve with the impulse of a pendulum. Tethering neither here nor there, they hurtle gracefully across swaths of pictorial space. His style is in itself a path through liminal domains, conjuring the blurry features of unnamed, fleshy masses. Even so, the figures in his compositions are analogous to choreographed motion, embodying a collective undulation that Rouy was inspired to recreate when he first encountered the eurythmic movements of Sharon Eyal's dance company—a contemporary Israeli troupe he has since collaborated with.

Each of the paintings on display is expansive and takes its time loosening up, stripping back, orbiting around, pouncing on, retreating from, and reaching a cusp—gestures that do not promise easy answers. As song communicates the evolving trajectory of human nature through composition, so too do Rouy's paintings—alive, amorphous, liberated, and in rhythm.

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## About George Rouy

George Rouy (b. 1994) resides and works in Kent, UK. He received his BFA from Camberwell College of Arts in 2015. In 2019 his work was featured in *Jeunes Artistes en Europe. Les Metamorphoses* at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris, France. Since then, Rouy has had solo exhibitions in New York, London, Copenhagen, and Berlin. This year he was featured in *X PINK 101*, a group show at the X Museum in Beijing, China, and his most recent solo exhibition, *Body Suit*, opened in June at Hannah Barry Gallery in London. Tarmac Press also published his debut book this year, *George Rouy - Selected Works 2017 - 2023*. His work is in the collections of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA; Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France; Stahl Collection, Norrkoping, Sweden; X Museum, Beijing, China; Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing, China; M Woods, Beijing, China; and 69 Art Campus, Beijing, China. Rouy's paintings engage the body so that amorphous shapes reveal abstract human forms. Throughout his work, ambiguity supports his investigations of historic portraiture in conversation with contemporary socio-cultural attributes.

## About Nicola Vassell Gallery

Nicola Vassell Gallery is a contemporary art gallery committed to discourse that widens the lens of the history and future of art. Its focus is on developing an inter-generational, cross-disciplinary program of international artists and thinkers.