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Exhibition preview · Paris

Mumbai painter Rithika Merchant fills Paris's Galerie LJ with fable-like dreamscapes of hybrid creatures

Mumbai-based artist Rithika Merchant presents "The Dreaming Realm", a new solo exhibition of surreal, myth-inflected paintings at Galerie LJ in Paris, running through 21 November. The works fuse hybrid creatures, environmental unease and her ongoing "Interspecies Care" series into scenes of cooperation and renewal.

By Colossal Source date · 19 Oct 2026

Mumbai-based painter Rithika Merchant has opened her solo exhibition "The Dreaming Realm" at Galerie LJ in Paris, presenting a new body of work that stages surreal, symmetrical tableaux where mythological creatures mingle with flora and fauna. The exhibition continues through 21 November.

At the heart of the show are hybrid beings: human bodies crowned with the heads of raptors, accompanied by insects, stars and all-seeing eyes drifting through metaphysical tendrils. Merchant paints floods and eruptions alongside enigmatic rites that suggest cooperation and resolve. Rather than illustrating fixed myths, the fable-like narratives probe a collective unease about the environment while reaching for the possibility of repair.

The works draw on an unusually wide research base. According to the gallery, Merchant threads together the Greek notion of Kairos — time as subjective and opportune — with studies of the Beguines, the medieval communities of financially independent Christian women, some of whom practiced mysticism. Symbols recur as quiet shorthand: the luna moth signals intuition and transition, while ravens stand for wisdom and foresight, bridging the seen and unseen worlds.

A continuing thread is "Interspecies Care", the artist's ongoing series examining how species live together — through social organization, interdependence, reciprocity and the sharing of knowledge. Drawing on earth, plants, fire, water and the stars, Merchant balances volatility against strength, producing images that feel both ancient and urgent: a dream realm where humans and creatures test what care across species might look like. Against the polished white-cube backdrop of the Paris gallery, the paintings read as quiet counter-spells to the city's fair-week commotion, insisting that tenderness and ritual still have a place in contemporary image-making.

Sources

- Rithika Merchant Summons Ancient Mythology and Mysticism in 'The Dreaming Realm' · Primary source

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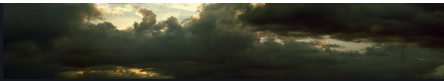


Image via news.artnet.com

Exhibitions · Oslo

At Galleri K in Oslo, Mikkel McAlinden Turns the Akerselva River Into an Uncanny Photographic Undertow

Norwegian photographer Mikkel McAlinden's exhibition "Riptide" at Galleri K in Oslo, on view through November 1, presents meticulously constructed photographs of the Akerselva river that trade documentary fidelity for engineered, uncanny visions of nature.

Source date · 19 Oct 2026



Image via artfry.net

Exhibitions · People · Paris

Eighteen Women Sculptors History Forgot Get Monumental Plaster Portraits at the Petit Palais

French artist Prune Nourry has taken over the Petit Palais with "Visionaries," a commission of 18 plaster busts honoring women sculptors erased from art history, on view from October 20, 2026 through January 24, 2027.

Source date · 20 Oct 2026



Image via bijutsutecho.com

Exhibitions · Fairs · Japan

Kikai Island Turns 100,000 Years of Coral Geology Into a First-Ever Science-Art Festival

The inaugural Coral Island Science Art Festival 2026 opens October 30 on Kikai Island, Kagoshima, with executive art director Yuko Hasegawa, translating the island's raised-coral-reef geology into contemporary art across six free venues.

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