

## JANUS

### Curated by Katharine Dufault

Featuring Idil Barkan, Alexandra Rutsch Brock, Brantner DeAtley, Katharine Dufault, Kiki Dufault, Patricia Fabricant, Guzman, Ellen Letcher, Maggie Mailer, Henry Murphy, Tess Recordon, Noah Schmitz, Denise Sfraga, Julie Torres

Susan Eley Fine Art, Hudson  
433 Warren Street, Hudson, NY 12534

January 9 - March 2, 2025 with an Opening Reception on January 11, 4-6 PM

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Susan Eley Fine Art is pleased to present *JANUS*, a group exhibition organized by guest curator Katharine Dufault. The show includes fifteen contemporary creators and is on view at SEFA Hudson from January 9th to March 2nd, 2025. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, January 11th from 4-6pm with many of the artists present. The artworks range from sculpture, to painting, to photography.

Curator Katharine Dufault speaks about her exhibition concept for *JANUS*, as well as historical sources, artist selections and exhibition design in the words quoted below:

The idea for the show came from a childhood memory of seeing a stone sculpture of the Roman god Janus in a museum in Cambridge, England, where I grew up. I was struck by the sight of the double faced head and fascinated to find out about the god and its meaning.

Janus is the double-faced Roman god who looks backward and forward simultaneously. This duality evokes the idea of being on a threshold, standing at the entrance to a portal between worlds. It suggests a moment of transition, where the boundaries between realities blur, offering a glimpse into magical realms. It is, perhaps, an opportunity to perceive or even embrace something extraordinary—a fleeting moment of connection to the mysterious and the sublime.

Artists have been selected for their ability to transport viewers to new and imaginative places. Through abstract paintings that capture a sense of movement, photographs offering modern interpretations of the theme and sculptures that allude to hidden worlds—each piece serves as a portal. These artworks invite the viewer to step through and explore. They challenge perceptions and ignite the imagination, offering a bridge between the tangible and the intangible. Each artist's vision contributes to a larger narrative of discovery and transformation. By engaging with these works, the audience is encouraged to embrace the unknown and to see the world—and themselves—in a new light.

Additionally, *JANUS* makes a fitting theme for a winter show in January. The month is named after this god whose faces simultaneously look back at the old year and forward towards the new year.

## ARTIST INTRODUCTIONS

Idil Barkan works with encaustic (hot wax and pigment) to create organic ambiguous sculptures with deep colors which evoke a sense of otherness.

Alexandra Rutsch Brock works in various mediums, but I have chosen from her series of clay footprint sculptures and tiles with a lustrous gold finish. *PORTAL* is on view here as an engaging installation on the Gallery's floor.

Brantner DeAtley forms roughly sculpted animals and birds, such as bluejays and cardinals, out of mud and clay and other organic materials.

Painter Kiki Dufault has recently been working with fused glass creating colorful, translucent abstracted landscapes, swirling with hues.

Patricia Fabricant uses matte and opaque color to create abstract patterns which undulate with organic references.

The figurative photographs I have chosen by the photographer duo Guzman riff on the themes of twinning and of duality by manipulating the images into doubles.

Maggie Mailer uses mixed media and multiple small works presented together as one, which invites the viewer into a "zone of creative possibility."

Painter Henry Murphy translates scenes into imaginary worlds with delicate figures, animals and landscape elements.

Tess Recordon uses memories of her world travels to paint and pour her chromatic landscapes.

Noah Schmitz uses a patterned vocabulary of shapes and textures.

Denise Sfraga paints abstracted plant forms in brilliant hues which often suggest magic or poison.

Julie Torres has crafted an abstract gestural painting in response to the *JANUS* theme.

Ellen Letcher has created a collage in direct response to the exhibition theme.

My [Katharine Dufault] abstracted poured and painted landscapes are filled with color.

## **KATHARINE DUFAULT BIOGRAPHY**

Katharine Dufault, a British-born artist, curator, visual arts consultant and educator, has been reviewed by The New York Times. She is a multimedia artist who works in oils, watercolor, encaustic and printmaking. Dufault graduated with honors from Columbia University, majoring in painting and literature, following her studies in visual arts, graphic design and photography at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, England. She has curated over a dozen exhibitions in New York City, Westchester county, Connecticut and Ohio. Dufault's work is regularly shown in exhibitions across New York City, Boston, Ohio, Connecticut, Westchester County, the Berkshires and Cambridge, England, and is included in numerous corporate and private collections. She lives and works in southern Berkshire County, MA.