

T Y G E R  T Y G E R  
G A L L E R Y

*Tyger Tyger Gallery* (Asheville, NC) is pleased to present:

*You were only waiting for this moment to arise*

an exhibition of paintings by

Mira Gerard

Exhibition Dates: October 6 - October 29, 2023

Opening Reception: Friday, October 6th, 5-8 pm

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday from 10-5 pm, Sunday 11-4 pm



Mira Gerard  
*All of my love*  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
36" x 48"

## About the Exhibition

*You were only waiting for this moment to arise*, Tyger Tyger Gallery's upcoming solo exhibition by Mira Gerard, features paintings of idyllic spaces populated with wild grasses and sun-tinged flowers. The series is the result of Gerard giving herself permission to paint ethereal landscapes in gloaming and slanted light, butterflies, and tangled plants. As a child, Gerard lived in an ashram in New Hampshire with her parents, spending as much time outside as possible in the woods and meadows. Gerard has returned to nature over the last decade or so for inspiration, using her smart phone as a visual journal, taking thousands of pictures of flora and fauna, clouds, and mountains. Painting what is miraculously beautiful to her has helped Gerard process grief after the loss of her parents in 2019 and 2020. "I've always loved being outside and taking in the constantly shifting light and the tiniest details, like spiderwebs and the passage of light on growing things," she says. "I started painting wildflowers and plants earlier this year as a side project, and almost immediately, I knew it was bigger than I realized."

Across Gerard's paintings, intricately rendered botanicals overlay blooms of shifting color that pool and drip across the surface. They hover in a dreamy, intimate space where the plants are not rooted to a traditional horizon line, and where the viewer is positioned at eye level among the flowers. "On walks and hikes, I usually have to sit on the ground to see things from that point of view—at the height of a small child. There, I feel connected intimately to the earth, which heightens the experience and induces curiosity and deeper observation," she explains.



Mira Gerard  
*In the center of it all, your eyes*  
Oil, mica, and acrylic on linen  
14" x 11"  
2023



Many of the titles for this body of work are drawn from the lyrics of well-known songs, including ones Gerard remembers from childhood, frequently sung with acoustic guitar accompaniment by her mother, who left a promising singing career behind in the early 60s to live a life of meditation and contemplation. Other titles come from poetry, which is another powerful influence. "I find myself recalling phrases, lyrics, and words as I work," she says. "Language and sounds are intrinsically linked to image and sense memories, and hint at layers of meaning."

*You were only waiting for this moment to arise* represents the artist's discovery of a method for metabolizing great loss through painting intimate spaces of refuge. Her paintings gently and lovingly remind us that we all live in relation to and alongside one another, as common as flowers in the fields blossoming, growing, dying, and being born.

Mira Gerard  
*Tangled up in blue*  
Oil, mica, and acrylic on canvas  
16" x 12"  
2023



## About the Artist

Mira Gerard lives and works in Johnson City, Tennessee and Asheville, North Carolina. Her work has been exhibited at Tyger Tyger Gallery (Asheville, NC), Walter Maciel Gallery (Los Angeles), Torrance Art Museum (Torrance, CA), Huntsville Museum of Art (Huntsville, AL), Arkansas Museum of Art (Little Rock, AR), Nave Gallery (Boston, MA), Wichita Center for Contemporary Art (Wichita, KS), William King Museum (Abingdon, VA), James May Gallery (Milwaukee, WI), Vanderbilt University, Knoxville Museum of Art (Knoxville TN), and was published in *New American Paintings* #118 in 2015, to name a few. A recipient of numerous grants, awards, and fellowships, Gerard has attended a number of artist residencies including Ox-Bow School of Art in Saugatuck, Michigan, The Hambidge Center in Rabun Gap Georgia, The Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont, Cill Rialaig Project in Ballinskelligs, Ireland, and the Virginia Center for Creative Arts in Amherst, Virginia.

Gerard is the Founding Director of Tyger Tyger Gallery and is a professor in the Department of Art & Design at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee, where she has taught since 2001 and served as the department chair from 2014-2021.

**Tyger Tyger Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am - 4 pm.**

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