

Timothy Taylor



Hayal Pozanti, *The Shimmering Shoulders of the World*, 2024. Oil stick on linen, 80 × 120 in (203.2 × 304.8 cm) © Hayal Pozanti

Hayal Pozanti Tender Mountain

25 April — 2 June 2024
15 Bolton Street, London

Timothy Taylor is pleased to present *Tender Mountain*, an exhibition of new paintings by Hayal Pozanti. Marking the artist's first solo exhibition in the UK and her second with the gallery, this presentation will feature seven large and medium-scale paintings, as well as three studies, depicting expressive landscapes and exuberant biomorphic forms. These lush, surreal canvases document the artist's dedicated exploration of her experiences in nature.

Pozanti's primary subject is the natural world and our relationship to it. In her daily life, she opens herself up to communing with and closely observing the environment: the texture of lichen, a stream of water, a glimmer of moths, or the old-growth maple trees that grow beside her Vermont home. With a remarkable sensitivity to space, she beholds nature deeply, entering meditative states of unwavering attention. She sketches *en plein air* before returning to the studio to translate her impressions to the canvas using sustainable oil sticks. Blending her medium with her fingers, she takes a tactile, almost sculptural approach to pigment application, ensuring an uninterrupted connection between her mind and the canvas.

Though her sketches involve careful observation, Pozanti doesn't seek to replicate the natural world. Rather, she aims to capture the world as she encounters it—as a sensate, dreaming, interpretive subject. As a result,

her landscapes breathe with life. The painting *A Dream Strayed Into Light* (all works 2024), for example, features a gauzy path lined with ecstatic, jewel-toned flora, all seemingly uplifted by a gust of wind. In *The Shimmering Shoulders of the World*, an ambient beachscape at twilight is viewed through a fringe of undulating branches. *Lips to Breathe Her Name* centres on a limber flower whose petals recall feminine anatomy.

“My paintings are love letters to the Earth,” the artist explains. “I make them to celebrate, remember, and immortalise the beauty of the natural world... As I exist within the world, everything in it exists within me. This feeling of oneness and the urgency to embrace it blossoms in my work.” Beneath the enchantment that characterises these paintings, however, there is an element of melancholy. By emphasising our indivisibility from nature and revelling in its beauty, Pozanti hopes to inspire care for our environment and for all that is nonhuman in our world.

About the Artist

Hayal Pozanti (b. 1983, Istanbul, Turkey) lives and works in Manchester, Vermont. She holds degrees from Sabanci University in Istanbul (2004) and Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut (2011). In 2021, the artist created *Instant Paradise*, an eighty-five-foot-long permanent art installation on the ceiling of the New York Public Library’s largest circulating branch. Other large-scale public projects and commissions include those awarded by Public Art Fund, New York; Cleveland Clinic and Case Western, Cleveland; and Westfield World Trade Center, New York. Her work was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2015–16), and she has participated in exhibitions at such venues as San José Museum of Art (2020); Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque (2020); Brooklyn Academy of Music (2017); and The Kitchen, New York (2016). Her work resides in the permanent collections of MSU Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, Michigan; Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); San José Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and the Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, among others.

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