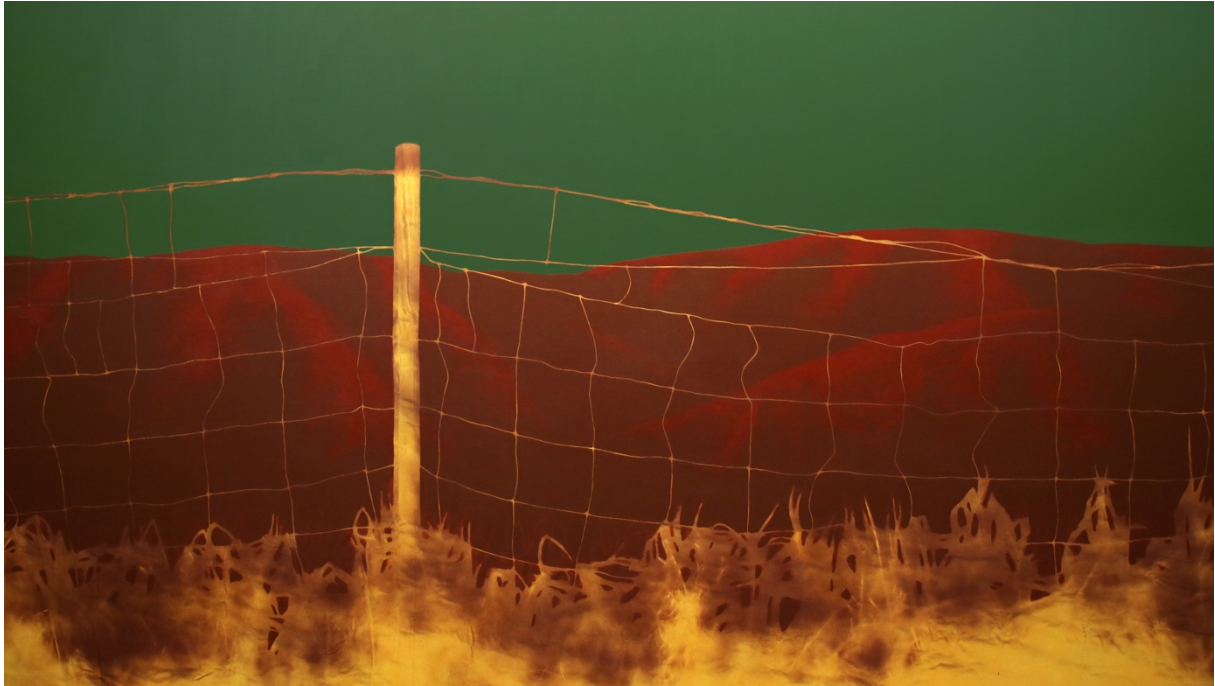




PRESS RELEASE

SOLO SHOW DIEGO HERMAN
HOW TO SEE THROUGH A FENCE
3 NOVEMBER – 21 DECEMBER 2024



'Yellow Heartbreak' by Diego Herman, 2024, mixed media on unprimed cotton, 140x250 cm

Husk Gallery is delighted to present the first solo show with Diego Herman (b1994, Brussels). Fascinated by the importance of limits and boundaries in the way we think about space, the Belgian artist with Mexican roots works with the motif of the fence as a strong symbol of the obstruction to the free movement of bodies. Despite the absence of the human figure, Diego Herman composes socio-political landscapes. His paintings raise consciousness about contemporary issues on displacement, identity and humanity. By painting his recurring motifs, such as barriers and borders, abandoned spaces and wild animals, in an unnatural colour palette, his paintings transcend the ordinary and become a face of our society.

Through a specific range of scenes from the garden of his parental home to the Mexican frontier, Diego Herman depicts territory and borders in unlikely places. His large painting, "Yellow Heartbreak" features the garden fence of the house where he grew up. He refers to his family home as a safe haven from which one launches forth to join with the world. Raised in Brussels in a mixed household by a Mexican mother and Belgian father, Diego Herman got confronted with identity politics as from an early age. These personal experiences between two cultures have a significant impact on his artistic work, in which he aims to present a case for an embodied and material understanding of the intersections of bodies, territory and borders.



'Huge Coyote Problem' by Diego Herman, 2024, oil on canvas, 75x62 cm

Using the visual language of a globalized landscape as a starting point, Diego Herman explores notions of ownership, habitat and alterity in compositions that depict places devoid of human figures. He uses the motif of the fence as an industrial object whose constant form is part of a universal vocabulary. He depicts fences all over the world, used to protect territory and keep out unwanted intruders, whether human or animal. By stating that "*what interests me in the act of painting these elements of the landscape is that, by becoming the focus of attention, they reveal human weaknesses*", Diego Herman pushes the viewer of his painted landscapes into the political realm, as they become portraits of our society. His exploration of the ways in which bodies are marked by territory and borders highlights their active role in the artificial constitution of territories of all kinds. To exemplify, his series entitled "Huge Coyote Problem" (based on a YouTube film in which an American cattle farmer employs military tools at night to kill coyotes attacking his cows) addresses the theme of migration in a well-considered manner. Although native to the area, the wild animals are unwanted by the colonizers wanting to make a profit out of the non-native cows.



Many of Herman's included paintings in the exhibition are characterized by a warm, alienating colour palette, based on thermally captured footage. The green and yellow-orange tones create a distinctive ambience, encompassing sentiments of nostalgia, at times even evoking a specific sense of humor, and aspects of the uncanny. The artist employs the full range of possibilities offered by the medium of painting to create a series of compelling representations of his perception of the human condition within societal structures and dynamics.



Short CV



Diego Herman (°1994, Brussels) grew up in a Belgian-Mexican household, he currently lives and works in Brussels. After graduating in 2021 at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels, with a master's degree in painting, he was an artist in residence at Moonens Foundation, Brussels (2021-2022) and at Carrefour des arts, Brussels (2022-2023). Among others, his work was presented at Iselp Brussels on the occasion of 'New horizons in Painting' (2022). Diego Herman's work was presented for the first time at Husk Gallery on the occasion of the group exhibition 'Territories' (2024).

Opening

Sunday 3 November 2024 from 2 to 7 pm in the presence of the artist

Rivoli Open Sunday 1 December 2024 from 2 to 6 pm

Opening hours during exhibition

Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 2 to 6 pm or by appointment

*Exceptionally closed on 21.11 & 22.11 (during Luxembourg Art Week)
and 12.12&13.12.2024 (during Art Antwerp)*

The exhibition ends on Saturday 21 December 2024

For further inquiries:

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Social media

Facebook: [@huskartgallery](https://www.facebook.com/huskartgallery) ; Instagram: [@huskgallery](https://www.instagram.com/huskgallery)

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