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## KIRSTEN DEIRUP

### UNDERSTORY

August 27 - October 15, 2022

Opening Reception: Saturday, August 27 (4-8pm)

New York based painter **Kirsten Deirup**, her second with the gallery. The exhibition consists of ten new works in oil on linen. That define a territory where theater, nature and devastation appeal to our subconscious by depicting a reality that is beyond explanation.

Understory is defined as the layer of foliage under the forest canopy. Deirup uses it as a starting point to create masterfully rendered landscapes inspired by the Hudson River School where she now resides, and to pull connections between the stories of Genesis, Paradise Lost, and The Modern Prometheus (Frankenstein). Creation and reanimation are prominent themes in Deirup's newest paintings.

Two of the paintings, *Aftermath*, and *Prelude*, operate as an informal diptych referencing Botticelli's masterwork 'Mars and Venus, C. 1483'. *Aftermath* depicts a figure lounging completely overtaken by the growth of foliage. The title and pose suggest that this is the character of Mars, the God of war after his encounter with Venus. While *Prelude* depicts a utilitarian blue tarp, contouring and folding to a form beneath.

Cleverly alluding to Adam and Eve from the book of Genesis, Deirup paints two plastic toothbrushes placed in the center of a gold necklace in a lush green pasture. And while electricity is never mentioned as a catalytic force in Shelley's *Frankenstein*, in Deirup's *Bloom Loop*, an orange extension cord loops through a dystopian landscape connected to a plant that blooms a rose and is surrounded by a golden necklace.

In today's (and tomorrow's) world which is wrought by perpetual environmental struggle, Deirup's pictures offer us a colorful refuge, full of orange extension cords, necklaces, coins, toothbrushes, milk cartons, tin cans that appear again and again, referencing human kind's hand in the landscape.

**Kirsten Deirup** (b. 1980), Berkeley, CA) attended The Cooper Union, New York, NY. She has had solo exhibitions at Hesse Flatow, New York, NY; Nichelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY; Guild and Greyschul, New York, NY; Rare, New York, NY and de boer, Los Angeles, CA. Group exhibitions include; Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, NY; Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, NY; Marc Wolf Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA; Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA; and Roberts and Tilton, Los Angeles, CA.

Image:  
Kirsten Deirup, *Prelude*, 2022, oil on linen, 40 x 60 in.

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