

SEPTEMBER

Ashley Garrett: *Ambrosia*

June 10 - August 6, 2023

“In these paintings I am offering spaces for healing, restoration, and growth. By slowing down, observing the land that holds us, and prioritizing its care, we can recognize that by attending to the land, we are taking care of ourselves. Connecting to the bigness of nature and how it draws a feeling of settling and coming home.”

We are thrilled to present *Ambrosia*, Ashley Garrett’s second solo exhibition with the gallery. Living and working among the natural riches of the environment in Upstate NY, Garrett’s work is directly connected to the surrounding landscape and her daily practice of meditating in nature. Presented here are a family of paintings created over the course of three years through changing seasons and undulating times.

The artist’s close observation of land and all that lives and grows in it, real, remembered, and imagined, becomes swirling forms, capricious brushstrokes, and passages of brilliant light. Garrett’s palette is unfettered and rich. Exuding variant forces of nature, she layers densely and brushes lightly, she discovers quickly and labors intensely.

Shifting between a range of scales, Garrett masterfully meets literal edges and visually surpasses this finitude. Her paintings are not limited by their frame, but imply infinite continuation. Her facile transitions between closeness and expansiveness are remarkable; detail is not rendered but suggested through cohered brushwork, and spaciousness is achieved through visual openings that arrive because of their proximity to density.

“Spending time in nature, I felt how moving water and air mirrors the flow of internal processes like breathing, dreaming, and thinking. Where do these feelings, the strength of these energetic currents go, where are they met by nature’s pull?”

There is a reverence in Garrett’s practice that effuses joy, evident in her exuberant works. The consciousness and transcendence that she discovers in the woods and before a canvas is devotional, even spiritual. Her works are offerings; they are portals for us to enter and move freely within. They are *Ambrosia*.

Ashley Garrett (b. 1984) graduated with a BFA from the School of Visual Arts. Solo and two-person exhibitions include Love Apple Art Space (Ghent, NY), Gold Montclair (Montclair, NJ), Hood Gallery (Brooklyn, NY), Chase Gallery (West Hartford, CT), SRO (Brooklyn, NY), Six Depot (West Stockbridge, MA), RISD Memorial Hall Gallery (Providence, RI), and SEPTEMBER (Hudson, NY). Garrett has participated in group exhibitions at Ladies' Room (Los Angeles, CA), Katonah Museum (Katonah, NY), Regina Rex (New York, NY), The Painting Center (New York, NY), Planthouse (New York, NY), Orgy Park (Brooklyn, NY), Nurture Art (Brooklyn, NY), Torrance Art Museum (Los Angeles, CA), Geoffrey Young Gallery (Great Barrington, MA), TSA LA (Los Angeles, CA), Cross Contemporary Art (Saugerties, NY), Church of St Paul the Apostle (New York, NY), Every Woman Biennial (New York, NY), Brian Morris Gallery (New York, NY), Novella Gallery (New York, NY), Schema Projects (Brooklyn, NY), Berkshire Museum (Pittsfield, MA), Woodstock Artists Association and Museum (Woodstock, NY), Berkshire Botanical Garden Leonhardt Gallery (Stockbridge, MA), Hudson Hall (Hudson, NY). Recent publications include Ashley Garrett: Tarot Images and Co-Configurative Eternities, in which poets read and respond to her paintings, and ArtMaze Magazine's Issue 10. Garrett has curated shows in New York and Los Angeles and she has interviewed numerous artists including Katherine Bernhardt, Lisa Sanditz, Ann Craven, Judith Linhares, Brenda Goodman, Lori Ellison, and choreographer Melissa Fenley for publications such as Whitehot Magazine, Figure/Ground, and Painting is Dead. Garrett's work has been reviewed by The Brooklyn Rail, Two Coats of Paint, and Caesura Magazine, among others, and the artist has been interviewed by Gorky's Granddaughter, Art Spiel, and The Collaborative. Ashley Garrett lives and works in East Chatham, NY.