

Xanthe Scout Lardner-Burke | EXIT STRATEGY

EXIT STRATEGY is a business term, delineating the end of a contract. Or you may know it through the neon-lit EXIT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. Either use of the term is indicative of the provision of a plan for when auxiliary, unexpected events occur, ones which necessitate a sure-footed, quick-thinking response. But in these works EXIT STRATEGY refers to the magical realist machination whereby the reader is entrapped in the real world with real problems, and must draw on the provision of fantastical exit strategies - strategies for denouement, progression and new logic.

In the case of this exhibition, it is most poignant that exit strategies delineate spaces, relationships, and an ordering of the world that is soon to disappear or soon-to-be seen. Exits are a passage between those two events. It is also true that in this way exits are a turning point; like the meaty bit at the centre of a book, a confluence of elements that come to a peak and a mountain in a landscape. We understand exits through the events that have pre-empted them, and the events that follow. And we understand their ability to shape the world around us.

It is here, with exits as framing devices - narratives even - that this exhibition is engaged. In painting, my substrates are watered down, they slip, spill, run and compound. They necessitate an immediate and responsive sort of working. Painting begins in one place and ends in another. Sculptures hold trajectories, points, keys. They draw abstract, overly specific conclusions to unasked questions. They inscribe a smaller kind of gesture into the large, gestural work of the paintings. In turn, paintings hold general conclusions; they mumble and conflate. Both paintings and sculptures collapse, flop & slip away from denouement. In this way they can be read as precarious exit strategies, in service of a full-tale, and a larger story.

- Xanthe Scout Lardner-Burke



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

Big Gesture/Make a Scene, 2024

Ink, liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiaat wood frame

Framed: 217 x 136.5 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 60,000

99 LOOP



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

Follow the Leader, 2024

Ink, marker, liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiaat wood frame

Framed: 140.5 x 143.5 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 48,000

99 LOOP



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

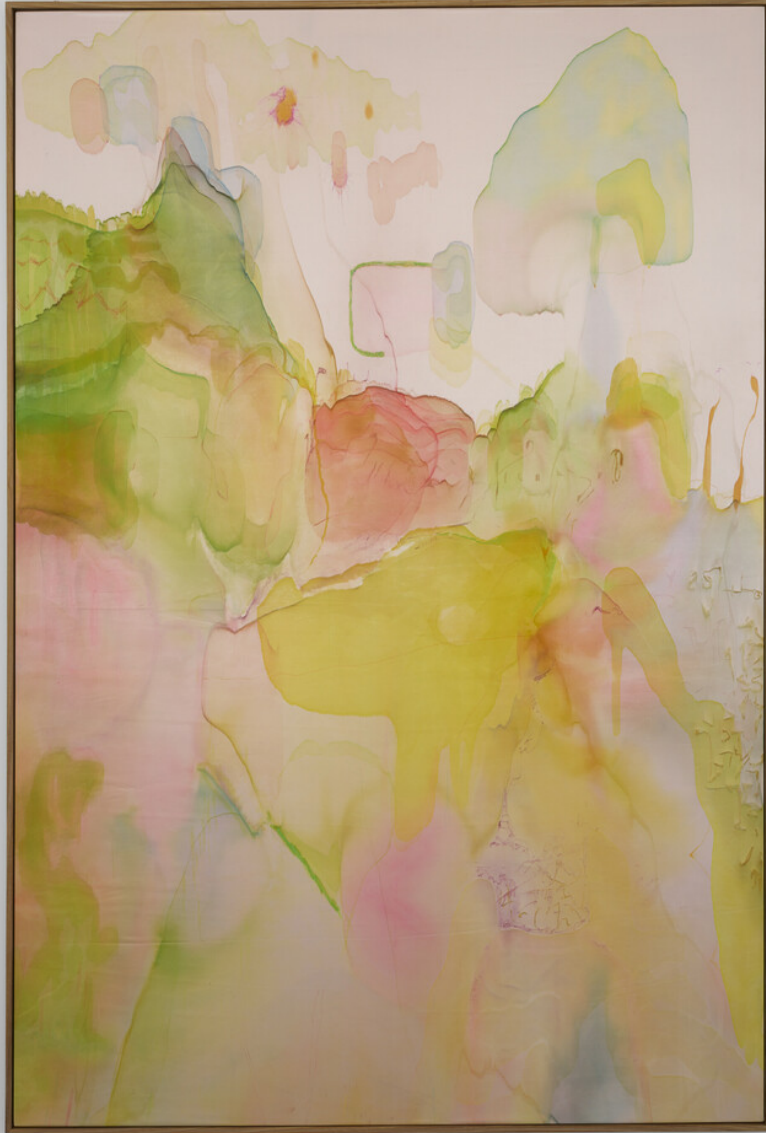
Tale of a Bucket with a Hole, 2024

Ink, liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiaat wood frame

Framed: 133 x 117 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 40,000

99 LOOP



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

Let the Seasons Do the Change, 2024

Ink, pencil, marker, liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiaat wood frame

Framed: 189 x 128 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 55,000



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

Two Horses That Got Loose, 2023

Liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiaat wood frame

Framed: 143 x 83 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 36,000

99 LOOP



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

Paint a Picture, 2024

Ink, pencil, markers, oil pastel, liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiasat
wood frame

Framed: 121 x 149 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 46,000



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

Dress the Same I, 2024

Ink, liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiaat wood frame

Framed: 188.5 x 70.5 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 42,000



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

Dress the Same II, 2024

Ink, oil pastel, liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiaat wood frame

Framed: 126 x 117.5 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 39,000

99 LOOP



XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

Retired from the Track, 2023

Ink, pencil, liquid pigment, silk paint & varnish on polysatin in kiaat wood frame

Framed: 70 x 69 x 3.8 cm

ZAR 18,000

About the Artist

Xanthe Scout Lardner-Burke (b. 1998, South Africa) makes soft sculptures and paintings. Her practice is process-based and expressive of [her] interest in materials, structures, language and value production. The making of her work involves a wide range of substrates (fabric scraps, polyester satin, plastic, foam, raw pigment, silk and oil paints, felt, and resin) meeting one another in unexpected configurations, and often suspended between states of being and becoming.

Scout Lardner-Burke graduated from Michaelis School of Fine Art (2021). She has exhibited with 99 Loop Gallery (Cape Town) in 'Untitled 9.99', 'Elemental', and 'With Feeling'; the Association for Visual Arts in 'Together'; and various independent curatorial projects since her graduation in 2021. She recently participated in Sessions, an eight-month program, culminating in the exhibition 'Pomegranate' (2023). This year, Scout Lardner-Burke curated the group exhibition 'Offcuts' at the Association for Visual Arts and exhibited at the Investec Cape Town Art Fair with 99 Loop Gallery. She lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.