

Stephen Friedman Gallery

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Hulda Guzmán
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Image: Installation view, Hulda Guzmán at Alexander Berggruen.

Tropical vistas, mise-en-abyme effects, and images of a plump cat are among the many lush pleasures in this young Dominican painter's exhibition "My Flora, My Fauna," at the Alexander Berggruen gallery. Guzmán's colourful works, in acrylic gouache, depict a surreal world in which domestic interiors spill into jungle landscapes. In "Pintando la Almendra," the artist is seen painting a self-portrait at night, head tilted back in laughter or anguish; thanks to the studio's big picture windows, she almost appears to work in the jungle. The daytime scene "Quarantine Visitor" evokes a similar mood of stir-crazy solitude: the titular guest is a palm tree growing through the floor. The artist's signature wit may be most evident in "Happy Cow," a nocturnal enchantment in which blue livestock leap over a pond, surrounded by flowers and shooting stars.