

Willa Wasserman: *Purple apple*

Feb 25 — Apr 18, 2026

Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel Jardins

Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel is proud to present *Purple apple*, Willa Wasserman's first solo show in Brazil, opening February 25 at FDAG Jardins, in São Paulo. The exhibition brings together intimate, small-scale paintings on linen and brass alongside expansive works on fabric, produced between New York, where she lives, and São Paulo, where the artist is currently undertaking a residency at Casa Onze.

Wasserman engages questions of intimacy, gender, and metamorphosis, weaving references to classical painting and material culture with contemporary expressions of queer experience. Working on fabric and metals, the artist treats the support as an active participant in each composition. Oil, silverpoint—traces drawn through the friction of silver on a primed surface—and chemical processes are applied in ways that allow oxidations, stains, and tonal shifts to surface and remain legible. She approaches figuration without emphasizing bodily clarity or sharply defined contours, favoring instead amorphous spaces in which forms drift and dissolve. Historical techniques are reimagined to give rise to mutable bodies and atmospheres that are at once luminous and dark, suspended in a state of continual emergence.

For several years, Wasserman has worked through still life as a way of thinking visually, treating objects as a form of quiet composition rather than symbolic display. She paints flower arrangements and garden scenes, such as *From the garden at the new squat* (2026), where pigment seems to merge with the metal surface, giving the images a quiet, ambient depth. In *Still life with purple apple, empty bowl, lock rake* (2026), the lock rake introduces a note of transgressive access, referencing lived experiences of trans identity and ways of navigating spaces beyond normative structures.

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Opening: Wednesday, Feb 25, from 6 pm to 9 pm

Exhibition: Feb 25 — Apr 18, 2026

Visiting hours: Tue — Fri: 10 am — 7 pm | Sat: 10 am — 6 pm

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About Willa Wasserman

Willa Wasserman (b. 1990, Evansville, Indiana) lives and works in New York. She gained her BFA at Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College in 2013, and received her MFA at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2019. Recent solo exhibitions include *Travesía Cuatro*, Madrid (2025) and *Guadalajara* (2024); *François Ghebaly*, New York (2023), Los Angeles (2022); *High Art*, Paris, France (2022); *Downs & Ross*, New York (2021); *Good*

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Weather, Chicago (2020) and in lieu, Los Angeles (2020). Selected group presentations include James Cohan, New York (2024); Modern Art, London (2023); Michael Werner Gallery, London, UK (2022); Sargent's Daughters, New York (2020); and Park View / Paul Soto, Los Angeles (2019)