



The Sacred Tree, 2025, oil on canvas over panel, 30 x 38 cm (12 x 15 in.)

Robert Ryan: *Another Time and Place*

12 December 2025 – 22 January 2026

Preview: Thursday 11 December, 6–8pm

19 East 66th Street, 4th and 5th Floors, New York, NY 10065

On view alongside Nancy Blum: The Black Drawings

Robilant+Voena is pleased to announce a **solo exhibition of paintings by Robert Ryan in New York.**

Opening with a reception on 11 December, the show brings together **twelve new paintings** by the Irish artist, taking viewers on a **journey to the quiet landscapes of his imagination.** His wistful, placid scenes of mountains, islands and lakes are inhabited by a few solitary animals of an undefined species,

suggesting a world beyond – or perhaps long before – the imprint of humanity. In his paintings, Ryan is deeply inspired by the landscape of his home in Lough Gur in County Limerick, Ireland – a place steeped in history and where the material and cultural remains of the past live strongly in the soul of the present. Ryan’s paintings remind us that in the **great passage of time, mankind is merely passing through.**



Exile, 2025, oil on canvas over panel, 30 x 38 cm (12 x 15 in.)

Within the serenity of these intimate paintings, there are other underlying sentiments, sometimes reinforcing the calmness, sometimes counteracting it. Many of the works explore concepts such as **uncertainty, solitude, vulnerability and salvation**, with Ryan allowing for multiple readings to play out in the lightly-suggested narrative of the dreamlike situations. The creatures in his visual universe exist in a place that teeters between seclusion and isolation, at times seemingly glad to inhabit the quiet land – as in *Gatekeepers* or *Cloud Counting* – but in other works they appear to yearn for connection – as is evident in *Exile* or *Sending a SOS*. The stillness of Ryan’s paintings is fragile, sometimes overcome by a sense of expectation.

In the exhibition, Ryan **also debuts four delightfully small works on panel**, the tiniest measuring just 4 x 3 ½ inches. These petite canvases present a microcosmic snippet of his world, painted with a jewel-like precision, a tiny window onto the limitless eternity of time. The mystery of *An Encounter in the Woods* is juxtaposed by the climactic stealth of *The Nest Looter*, conveying the artist’s considerable skill at this minute scale.



An Encounter in the Woods, 2025, oil on panel,
11 x 9 cm (4 ½ x 3 ½ in.)



Cloud Counting, 2025, oil on panel, 11 x 9 cm
(4 ½ x 3 ½ in.)

Collectively, the paintings have a **timeless quality**; through the beauty and vagueness of the creatures and places, Ryan reminds us of the commonality between ourselves and all other species that inhabit the Earth. The sense of empathy and connection inspired by the exhibition invites us to leave with a new perspective on **our ephemeral place in the order of things**.

Robert Ryan (b. 1963, County Limerick, Ireland) studied fine art at Limerick School of Art & Design, graduating in 1987. He worked in Copenhagen and London before returning to Ireland in 1994.

Ryan's painting practice draws upon wide references, from the Classical world, to European Old Masters, to postmodernism, and upon the artist's experiences traveling across 70 countries with varying cultures and climates. His visual language is strongly inspired by the historical, archaeological and cultural significance of his home in Lough Gur, County Limerick, Ireland: a landscape of lakes, woodland and rugged limestone hills that has been constantly inhabited since the arrival of the neolithic people, 5000 years ago.

While the landscape is central to Ryan's work, his practice cannot be described as 'landscape painting'. His paintings and drawings instead explore concepts such as the infinity of space and time, solitude and salvation, vulnerability, fragility and the cycle of life, in which an unspecified four-legged creature is the recurrent trope. This creature inhabits another world, a universal landscape beyond recognisable time and place. The ambiguity that Ryan presents in his work leaves the viewer with an open space to reflect upon essential truths, namely the commonality between mankind and all other creatures – past, present and future.

Robert Ryan has exhibited internationally over a career that has spanned 4 decades, including in Ireland, the UK, Italy, Spain, Denmark, the US, Australia and China. His works are held in public and private collections across the globe, including the National Portrait Collection, Dublin, Limerick City Gallery and the University of Limerick.

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Notes to editors

Robilant+Voena is a partnership of art dealers Edmondo di Robilant and Marco Voena. They launched Robilant+Voena in London in 2004. Further gallery spaces were opened in Milan in 2009, and Paris and New York in 2020. Robilant+Voena has distinguished itself as one of the leading international art dealers in Old Master paintings, as well as 20th-century Italian art. In recent years, the gallery's dual specialisms in European Old Master paintings and 20th-century Italian art have been complemented by a carefully curated programme of contemporary projects, working with artists whose practices build upon the artistic inheritance of the past.

R+V is committed to excellence across all its activities. The gallery strives to create dynamic, thought-provoking exhibitions that juxtapose the old and the new, creating unexpected links between artists working across the centuries and drawing out eternal themes through art.

The gallery has sold paintings and works of art to many important private and royal collections and museums including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, the Gallerie degli Uffizi, Florence, the Gallerie dell'Accademia Venice, the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, the National Gallery, London, the National Gallery of Stockholm, the Museum of Western Art Tokyo, and the Pinacoteca di Brera Milan. R+V is represented at the most prestigious fine art fairs in the world, and is committed to its active exhibitions program and the publication of books and scholarly catalogues.

Current and upcoming exhibitions

New York

Nancy Blum: The Black Drawings, 12 December – 22 January

London

Pascale Marthine Tayou, 16 October – 19 December

Milan

Philippe Pastor. North Pole, 2 December – 16 January