

JUPITER

Paul Verdell

Tabernacle

May 1, 2025 – June 14, 2025

Opening reception: Thursday, May 1 | 6-8 PM

55 Delancey Street

New York, NY 10002



Jupiter is proud to present *Tabernacle*, Paul Verdell's second solo exhibition with the gallery. This new body of work features a dynamic array of large- and small-scale paintings, each animated by the artist's intuitive command of color and form. In *Tabernacle*, the layered, abstract compositions simmer with kinetic energy, their shared rhythm merging into a space that feels both sacred and alive.

Verdell first encountered the exhibition's titular word "tabernacle" on a small church he passed on his regular visits to the art store. He liked the word for its simple phonetic appeal—for the way it "rolls off the tongue so smoothly." Later, he discovered its meaning—a portable sanctuary—and immediately thought of his artistic practice—his studio, a refuge; his paint and brushes, instruments of worship.

Verdell's paintings—like the word "tabernacle," which first catches the ear—strike the eye. And, just as the word's meaning reveals a deeper resonance, the beauty of the works in *Tabernacle* extends beyond their immediate visual appeal. In *Shrubbery*—as in all of the show's larger works—Verdell applied paint to paper and plexiglass before pressing it into the canvas, achieving vibrant shades of green, intensified by flashes of pink, that dance across the composition. The colors blur and tangle, creating a sense of velocity that makes the work feel like it was created in an instant, capturing the exact moment winter turns to spring—at once, barren trees regain their leaves, and flowers emerge from the freezing ground.

Upon closer look, one begins to see the many layers—of paint and collaged canvas—built up one by one, revealing the slow construction of a surface that feels immediate and unpremeditated. As one lingers on *Shrubbery*, one can almost see Verdell in his studio, his process unfolding like a film beneath layers of color.

To create the works in *Tabernacle*, Verdell devoted his entire body to the laborious process of pressing, pushing, and pulling color into form. This physical effort pulses through the show's dynamic canvases where delicate textures weave a quiet intimacy through bold colors and sweeping compositions.

Verdell approaches painting as a geographical act—not in the representational sense, but in terms of coverage, expansion, and minimization. He considers the area of the canvas a kind of terrain, and navigates its surface with gestures that stretch, compress, and shift the space beneath his hands.

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In *Midnight Still*, ribbons of oxblood collide with waves of indigo and aquamarine, while flecks of paint dot the surface like sea spray, and shades of green flicker in the top-right corner. Though the palette feels drawn from the natural world, Verdell's embodied practice animates the composition with vivid corporeality. The lifeforce in this body of work is not signified by realistic imitations of figures or landscapes: instead, the substance of the paint itself feels alive; the collaged surfaces seem vital, stretching and breathing amidst coursing veins of color.

The works in *Tabernacle* strike a commanding balance between aesthetic beauty and emotional depth. Each painting blends compositional intensity with intimate intricacy, asserting a gravitational pull on its viewer who, sensing that they are part of a whispered exchange in a crowded room, surrenders willingly to its world. In this way, Verdell's paintings become devotional offerings to their beholder; each one is, at once, a window into his sanctuary and a tabernacle for the viewer—a refuge into which one may settle, allowing the unhurried pleasure of seeing to unfold into poignant resonance.

About the Artist:

Paul Verdell (b. 1991, Long Beach, CA), is a Detroit-based artist. He has exhibited widely throughout the United States at Library Street Collective, Detroit; Desert Center, Los Angeles; Louis Buhl & Co., Detroit; o-oLA, Los Angeles; Quappiprojects, Louisville; False Cast Gallery, San Diego; River House Arts, Toledo; and Walter E Terhune Gallery, Perrysburg, Ohio; amongst others. He has also exhibited abroad at Bode Gallery in Berlin. He earned his BFA from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, and was an artist in residence at Black Rock Senegal in 2022.

Caption: Portrait of Paul Verdell in his studio. Photograph by James Dickerson © Paul Verdell. Courtesy Jupiter and the artist, Miami Beach, FL.