



CATHARINA DHAEN
YELLOW GALLERY MARCH 2026 Leiden

CATHARINA DHAEN

"I remember your silhouette on Dyes Inlet. Against the silver sheen of a moon like painted glass. Under stars out on a pier, a celestial sphere. We were weightless as the waves that disappeared" – Death cab for cutie – Northern lights

In her new *Ouroboros series*, Catharina Dhaen deepens a long-standing investigation into temporality, stratification, and painterly transformation. Drawing on the ancient symbol of the ouroboros — the serpent devouring its own tail — the works articulate a cyclical understanding of time, foregrounding processes of renewal, erosion, and metamorphosis. Rather than working toward a predetermined image, Dhaen conceives painting as an open-ended, recursive system in which construction and destruction are intrinsically entwined.

Since her early solo exhibition *Pentimenti*, the notion of visible revision has functioned as a central conceptual and material device in her practice. In classical painting, *pentimenti* refer to traces of earlier compositional decisions that remain perceptible beneath subsequent layers. Dhaen reclaims this principle as a generative force: her paintings absorb their own histories, accumulating memory through stratified gestures, erasures, and overpainted forms. In the *Ouroboros series*, archival works become literal substrates for new compositions, transforming the canvas into a palimpsest in which past and present are materially and conceptually interwoven.

This cyclical methodology produces images that resist linear development, instead unfolding through iterative acts of reflection, interruption, and reconfiguration. Each painting operates as a corporeal entity — less a representation of the human body than an evocation of organic, fragmented presence. Autobiographical observations, symbolic notations, and intuitive mark-making coalesce into hybrid visual fields where figuration and abstraction continually destabilize one another. Legibility becomes fluid, oscillating across a spectrum that invites sustained attention and perceptual deceleration.

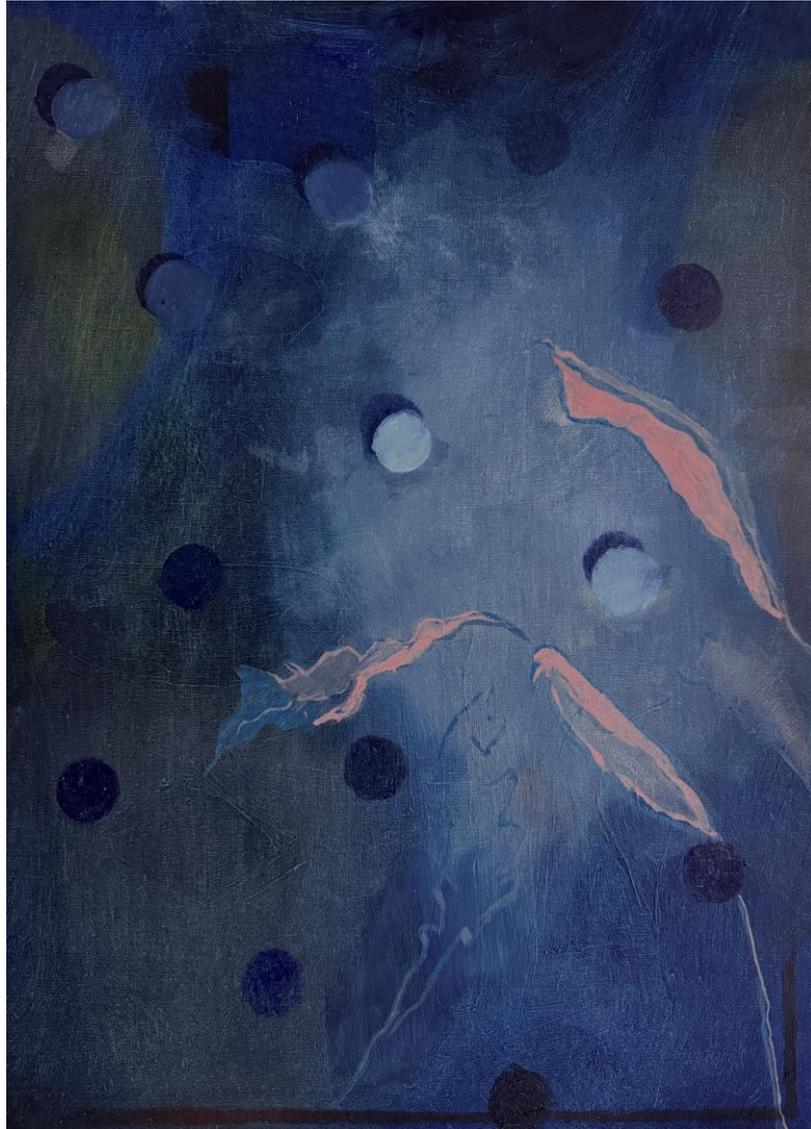
Beneath the seductive chromatic registers and playful surfaces lies a persistent tension between allure and estrangement, control and surrender. Dhaen's painterly language negotiates a fragile equilibrium between spontaneity and compositional rigor, resulting in works that oscillate between exuberance and existential gravity. In the *Ouroboros series*, this dynamic reaches heightened intensity: painting emerges not as an act of resolution, but as a durational practice of becoming. The canvas thus functions as a site of perpetual renewal, where loss, repetition, and transformation converge, affirming painting as a fundamentally temporal and living process.

CATHARINA DHAEN

Ouroboros VI, 2026

Oil on canvas

70 x 50 cm | 27,56 x 19,69 in.



CATHARINA DHAEN

Pentimenti III, 2026

Oil on canvas

18 x 12,5 cm | 7,09 x 4,92 in



CATHARINA DHAEN

Ouroboros I, 2026

Oil on canvas

40 x 33 cm | 15,75 x 12,99 in.



CATHARINA DHAEN

Pentimenti I, 2026

Acrylic on canvas

110 x 80 cm | 43,31 x 31,50 in

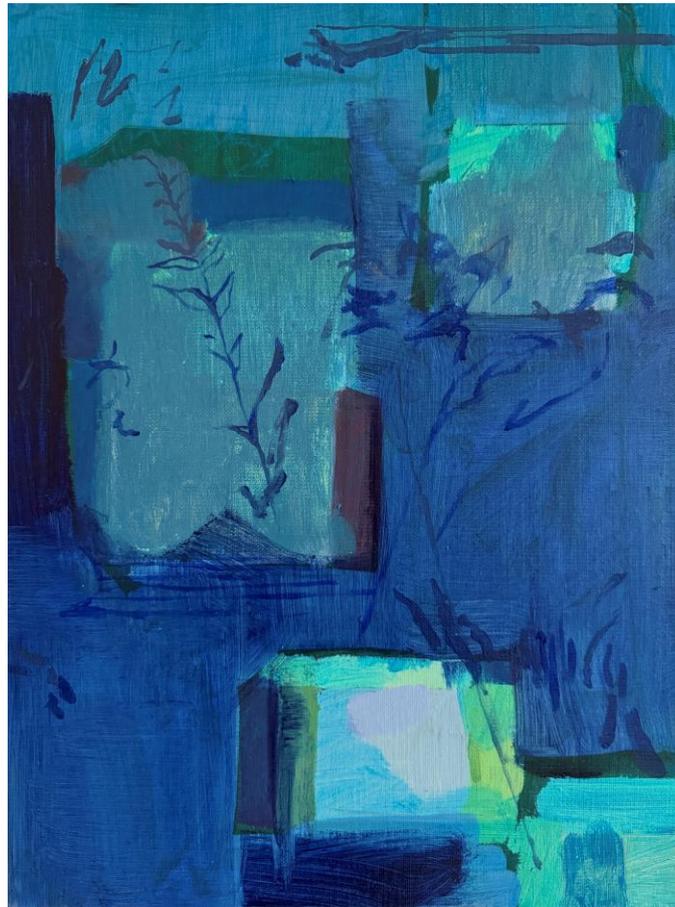


CATHARINA DHAEN

Ouroboros III, 2026

Oil on canvas

40 x 30 cm | 15,75 x 11,81 in.

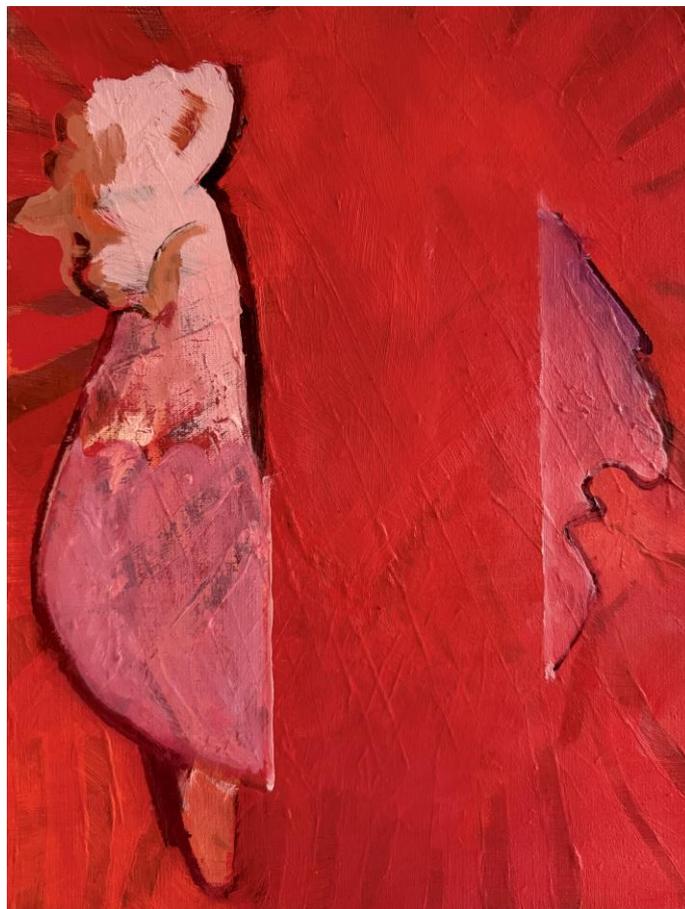


CATHARINA DHAEN

Ouroboros II, 2026

Oil on canvas

40 x 30 cm | 15,75 x 11,81 in.



CATHARINA DHAEN

Ouroboros V, 2026

Oil on canvas

40 x 30 cm | 15,75 x 11,81 in.



CATHARINA DHAEN

Pentimenti V, 2026

Oil on canvas

90 x 60 cm | 35,43 x 23,62 in.



CATHARINA DHAEN

Pentimenti IV, 2026

Oil on canvas

20 x 15 cm | 7,87 x 5,91 in.

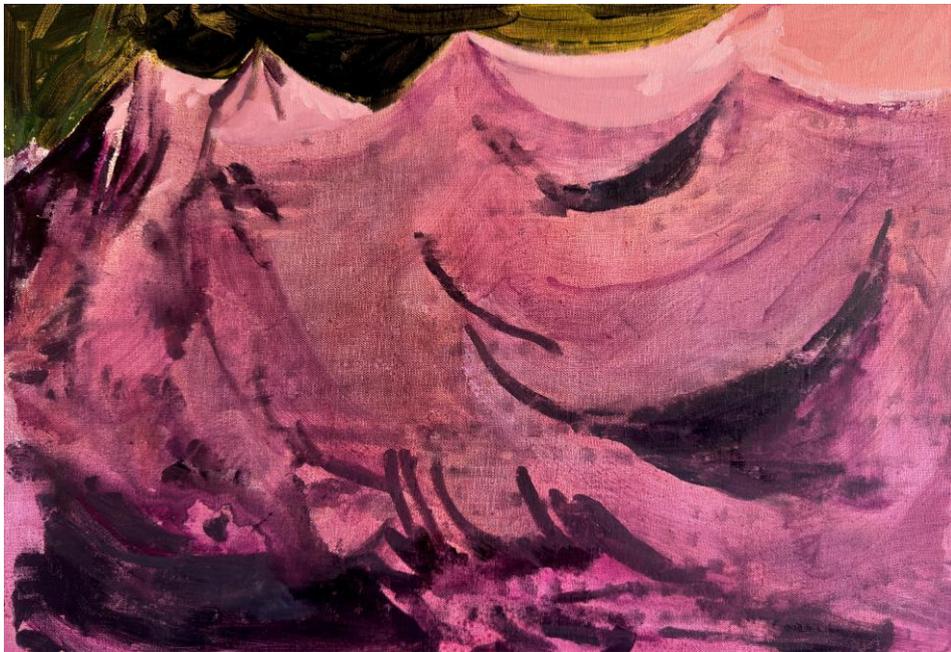


CATHARINA DHAEN

Pentimenti II, 2026

Oil on canvas

40 x 60 cm | 15,75 x 23,62 in.



CATHARINA DHAEN

Ouroboros IV
Oil on canvas
18 x 12,5 cm | 7,09 x 4,92 in



CATHARINA DHAEN

Untitled, 2025
Mixed media on paper
18 x 13 cm | 7,09 x 5,12 in



CATHARINA DHAEN

Untitled, 2025
Mixed media on paper
18 x 13 cm | 7,09 x 5,12 in



CATHARINA DHAEN

Untitled, 2025
Mixed media on paper
18 x 13 cm | 7,09 x 5,12 in



CATHARINA DHAEN

BIOGRAPHY

Catharina Dhaen's (1992) painting practice is driven by sensitivity and intuition. Her layered canvases merge personal memories, everyday moments, and fleeting impressions into an open visual language where figuration and abstraction continuously intersect. Her works hover between the familiar and the elusive, inviting reflection and interpretation.

Despite their vibrant colors and playful appearance, her paintings often contain an underlying tension. Themes such as freedom, vulnerability, and emotional ambiguity subtly permeate her oeuvre. Based in Belgium, Dhaen has exhibited at institutions including M HKA, Emergent, Voorkamer, and Musée Marthe Donas, as well as at CC Binder (Puurs), De Witte Rook (Breda), and the City Museum of Menen, Sofie van de Velde (Antwerpen).



GALLERY INFORMATION

LEIDEN

't kasteeltje, Leiden
Jan van Goyenkade 44
2311 BC Leiden
+31 6 24 27 49 58
+31 6 54 30 07 06

Opening times:

By appointment

Artworks © Catharina Dhaen. All rights reserved.
All sales of artworks are subject to YELLOW
GALLERY standard invoice terms and ARR if
applicable.

YELLOWGALLERY.COM