



Palo Gallery Presents
Manoela Medeiros: Tropical Still Life
21 East 3rd Street, New York, NY 10003
6 September – 4 October 2025
Opening Reception: Friday, 5 September 2025 | 6–8 PM



Palo Gallery (New York) is pleased to present *Tropical Still Life*, an exhibition of new works by Brazilian artist **Manoela Medeiros**, marking her first solo exhibition in the United States in collaboration between Palo Gallery and Galeria Nara Roesler. Bringing together four of her multimedia paintings and signature wall excavations, the show foregrounds Medeiros's distinctive approach to art making through processes of excavation, erosion, and subtraction.

In her richly stratified paintings, Medeiros builds layers of acrylic paste, mineral pigment, and paint, only to carve back into the surface with knives, drills, and industrial tools. Through intense mark-making, she exposes fissures of color and texture that evoke the vitality of organic life—burgeoning flora, seed pods splitting open—while shifting between figuration and abstraction.

Her wall excavations extend her painting methodology into architecture. By cutting geometric sections from walls and casting their negative forms, Medeiros transforms clean surfaces into site-specific installations that respond to time and light. In the process, she uncovers hidden strata of pigment, plaster, and paint—hues that cannot be purchased or mixed, but emerge only through the slow work of time, decay, and erosion. These timeworn palettes lend the works an archaeological quality, as if history itself were reanimated through excavation. Walls, like canvases, become repositories of time: layered, weathered, and carrying the memory of what has been built, erased, and rebuilt.

Together, the works in *Tropical Still Life* position painting and architecture as living bodies that preserve traces of the past, situating Medeiros's practice at the threshold between construction and destruction, memory and renewal.

Please join Palo Gallery and the artist for a celebratory opening reception on Friday, September 5 from 6-8PM at 21 East 3rd Street in New York City.



About the Artist



In her practice, Manoela Medeiros (b. 1991, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) articulates an approach to painting that transcends the specificities of the medium, making use of sculpture, performance, and installation work. Pursuing a hybrid framework for the pictorial, Medeiros questions artistic media by going beyond their conventional formats, producing paintings and in situ installations that explore the relationships between space, time, and the corporeality of art and of the viewer.

The artist frequently performs direct interventions into exhibition spaces, creating works that emerge from the singularities of the space around her, whether they be material, structural, or in relation to natural and artificial light. With this, her practice attributes a sense of organicity to space, turning architecture into its own body, one that is specific to the experience of art.

Through a seemingly archeological process, Medeiros engages with the notion of ruins as a spatial indication for passing time, undertaking a process that reveals what is often left to underlie. The artist scrapes surfaces - such as the exhibition space's walls-, unveiling the layers of colors and materials employed, covered, and thus, forgotten over time. Medeiros seeks to reinvigorate our temporal experience by exhibiting layers -each of which carries the memory of the time when it was created-, and by allowing them to coexist and intertwine. Thus, the artist operates within a liminal space between construction and destruction, foregrounding how they may complement, rather than detract from each other.

Medeiros studied at the École Des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and at the Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage in Rio de Janeiro. She currently lives and works in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

About Palo Gallery

Palo Gallery was established in 2018 in New York City by third-generation art collector Paul Henkel with a focus on academic and historically contextualized contemporary art. Scholarship and art historical canon are at the forefront in the consideration of each exhibition as their program's curatorial focus aims to frame contemporary art within the context of art and social history.

Originating as a pop-up, the gallery opened its first brick and mortar on Bond Street in NoHo in September 2022, offering 3,400 square feet of exhibition space, giving artists the opportunity to work on a large scale. In June 2024, Palo's second location in New York City opened in the East



Village, serving as a more intimate space for emerging artists and experimental exhibitions to have their own spotlight. In September 2025, during their seventh year, Palo Gallery decided to phase out of their location on Bond Street as they dive deeper into focusing on their program, artist mentorship and client relationships. Today, Palo remains committed to offering artists unique opportunities to explore pivotal, intersecting cultural and historical topics through thought-provoking exhibitions.

After participating in ZsONAMACO, EXPO Chicago, and Aspen Art Fair earlier this year, Palo Gallery is excited to announce their participation at Art Cologne 2025 and Untitled Miami 2025.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Manoela Medeiros: Tropical Still Life

21 East 3rd Street

6 September to 4 October 2025

Leda Tsoutreli

21 East 3rd Street

11 October to 8 November 2025

Location & Contact

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