



Palo Gallery Presents
Lewinale Havette: I Love It When You Beg
21 East 3rd Street, New York, NY 10003
2 May 2026 – 13 June 2026
Opening Reception: Friday, 1 May 2026 | 6 – 8 PM

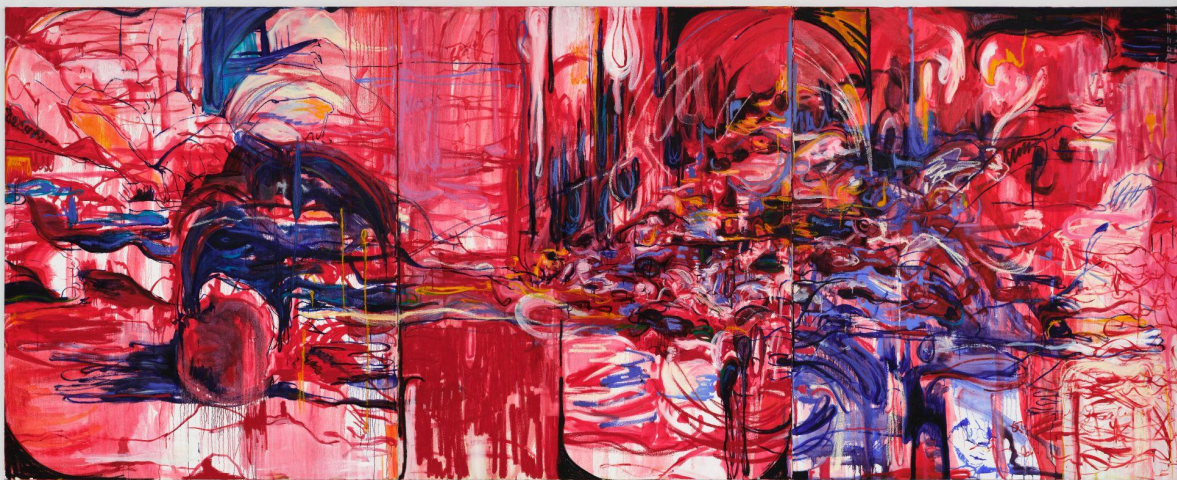


Lewinale Havette, *I Love It When You Beg*, 2026. Courtesy of the Artist.

Palo Gallery (New York, NY) is pleased to present *I Love It When You Beg*, the second solo exhibition by Liberian painter **Lewinale Havette** at Palo Gallery. Featuring a body of work across painting, work on paper, and sculpture, the exhibition uses the female body as its gravitational center. Havette offers a visceral exploration of how history and devotion shape presence, and how memory is held and transmitted across generations.

“In my practice, the female body remains a living archive where power, transcendence, rupture, love, death, war, and sex meet. In *I Love It When You Beg*, I explore how the body absorbs and carries histories of domination and devotion, existing as both sovereign and violated, fractured yet whole,” says Lewinale Havette.

Working with an intuitive and physically engaged approach, Havette utilizes oil sticks, diluted oil paint, and unconventional tools, including razor blades, to carve, scrape, and blur her surfaces. This process of instinctual mark-making produces dense compositions where gesture becomes



Lewinale Havette, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, 2026. Courtesy of the Artist.

both language and extraction. From accumulated gestures, figures emerge momentarily before slipping back into expanding fields of colour, movement, and emotion.

In the exhibition's largest work, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, the painting reads almost narratively, from left to right. The form of a reclined torso is surrounded by lines depicting hands and limbs, but as one travels across the work, the composition increases in seething density. The churning brushstrokes may allude to masses, bodies or oceans, but undoubtedly require deep looking and restless interpretation.

The paintings in the exhibition mark a clear shift in Havette's practice, where she has embraced the emotional release and chaos of the abstract. While clear facets are still present, they have begun to meld with the composition, creating a space where figure and abstraction shift between one another. The elements of photo transfer in Havette's practice have faded into a more raw and immediate kind of storytelling. Each canvas is approached as an unknown, with only the tools of emotion and the spiritual as its guide.

A significant development in Havette's practice is the introduction of a new body of sculptural works. These pieces combine West African ritual wood with European stone, nurturing a dialogue between distinct spiritual and cultural lineages. By uniting these materials, Havette challenges inherited religious and aesthetic systems, revealing the layered connections between power, belief, gendered authority, and ritual as lived through the body.

Throughout *I Love It When You Beg*, the body is continuously reimagined, at once vulnerable and sovereign, fractured yet whole. Material, gesture, and memory converge to reshape the



conditions under which power is seen, felt, and held.

I Love It When You Beg opens with a celebratory reception with the artist on Friday, May 1, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Palo Gallery, located at 21 East 3rd Street, New York City.

About the Artist

Lewinale Havette (b. 1990, Monrovia, Liberia) is a painter whose work examines feminine identity through the lens of African spirituality, religion, sensuality, and shifting power dynamics. Rooted in early memories of her maternal grandmother in a Liberian village, her practice engages a sense of the sacred and the unseen that continues to inform her visual language. These formative encounters with what she understands as magic remain present in her work as a quiet, generative force.

In the studio, Havette translates memory, vision, and dream into layered compositions that move between the figurative and the ethereal. Her paintings often feature spirits, water deities, and other symbolic presences that act as conduits for exploring the relationship between the body, belief, and transformation. At the center of this inquiry is the female body, understood as both axis and origin, a site through which cycles of life and death, love and war, sacrifice, and the making and unmaking of civilizations unfold. Through restrained palettes, dense surfaces, and deliberate mark-making, she constructs spaces where presence and absence coexist, and where meaning emerges through accumulation and erasure.

Working with oil paint alongside materials such as wood, iron, and stone, Havette builds images that hold both physical weight and spiritual resonance. Her work reflects an ongoing inquiry into how histories are carried within the body and how identity is shaped through memory, migration, and inheritance. Attentive to both rupture and continuity, her paintings consider what persists, what transforms, and what remains just beyond articulation.

Lewinale Havette's work has been recognized through exhibitions at leading museums and international art fairs, including Art Cologne, the Houston Museum of African American Culture, the Masur Museum of Art, Wehrmühle Museum, the 1–54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Untitled Art Fair Miami, and the Aspen Art Fair. She was also represented by the Pérez Art Museum Miami at Art Basel Miami. Lewinale Havette's artwork has been featured in exhibitions in museums and galleries in the United States and Europe, including Christie's London, 1-54 Contemporary African Fair in NY, Delphian Gallery in London, UK; Cierra Britton Gallery, New York; Black Cultural Archives, London, UK; Launch F18 in New York, NY; Alan Avery Art Company in Atlanta, GA; the Masur Museum of Art in Monroe, Louisiana; and The ROOM Contemporary Art Space in Venice, Italy. In addition, she was represented by the Pérez Art Museum Miami at Art Basel Miami.

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 historical canon are at the forefront in the consideration of each group, solo or duo exhibition. The gallery program's curatorial focus aims to frame contemporary art within the context of art and social history, and are committed to offering artists unique opportunities to elaborate on these concerns.

Originating as a pop-up, the gallery opened its flagship location, designed by Selldorf Architects, 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. Today, the gallery continues to showcase thematic presentations, offering artists a unique opportunity to explore pivotal, intersecting cultural and historical topics.

After participating in Art Cologne 2023, Art Cologne 2024, ZsONAMACO 2025, and EXPO Chicago 2025, Palo Gallery is excited to announce their participation at Art Cologne 2025 and Untitled Miami 2025.

Locations

Palo Gallery
30 Bond Street
New York, NY 10012
By Appointment Only

Palo Gallery
21 East 3rd Street
New York, NY 10003
Tuesday – Saturday | 11 AM to 6 PM

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Jane Hilton: Lightfall
21 East 3rd Street
10 January to 14 February 2025

Group Show: *Subject Object*
21 East 3rd Street
15 November to 20 December 2025

Media Contacts

Palo Press | press@palogallery.net | +1 917 283 2146