



Luisa Rabbia: Containing the Container

Tanya Leighton, Berlin, DE

By Thom Oosterhof

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Tanya Leighton presents *Containing the Container*, the first solo exhibition in Germany by Turin-born, New York-based artist Luisa Rabbia, opened on the occasion of Berlin Art Week 2026 and on view at the gallery's Kurfürstenstraße space in Berlin until 10 October 2026.

What does it mean to contain the container? Luisa Rabbia's first solo exhibition in Germany, having burst into life during Berlin Art Week at Tanya Leighton in Berlin, takes its title from exactly that question. The body that is the holder, one that turns life, death and energy into new existence, is itself constantly held. By its community. By generation. By something as old as time.

Inspired by tales told through ancient mythology, where the female body was understood as a transformer, Rabbia sees the sacred vessel as one with the capacity to cycle through life, through death and back again. Before it was front and center of legislation or debate, the female body was where transformation happened. In Rabbia's *Transformers* series, her figures stand composed of the many. Recognizing how responsible a community is for its collective hardships and its shared strength.

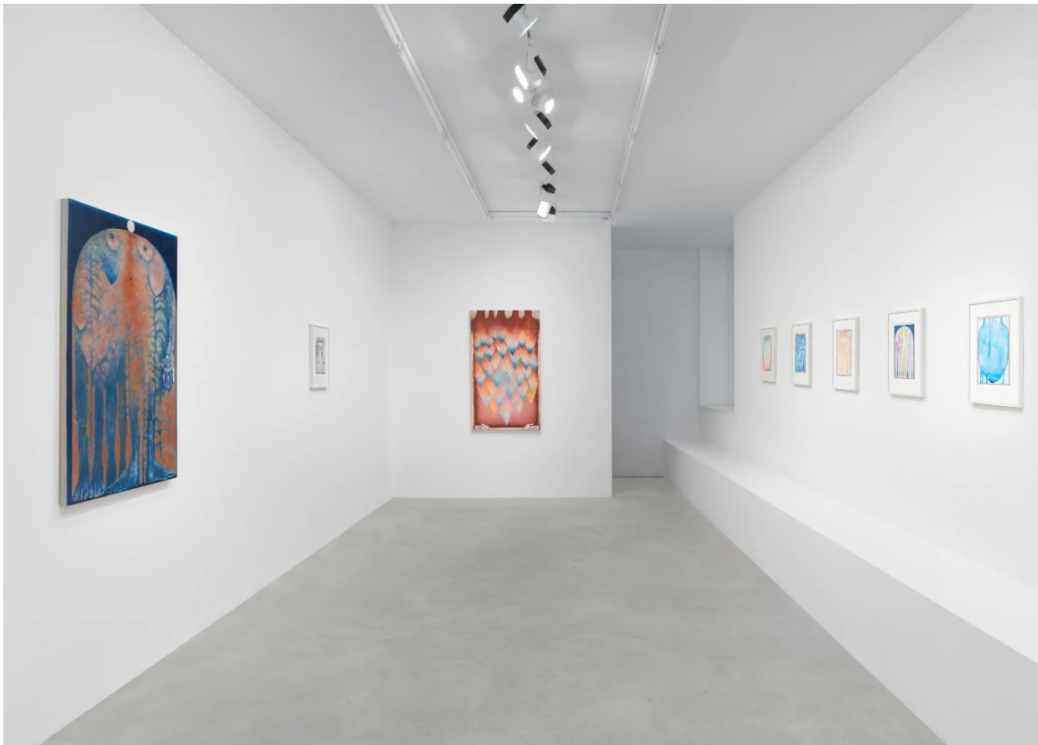
The paintings carry that sense of physicality. Working often at a large scale on canvas, she scrapes paint away and presses her fingerprints with intention into pigment. Building her deeply personal surfaces over time, far from any sense of haste. These works are thus not illustrations of an idea. They are the idea made material. Traces of life left behind, presented at scale, where figures shift between the microscopic and the cosmic. The body, dwelling, anchored at both ends of the scale.

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Tanya Leighton



Installation view of "Luisa Rabbia: Containing the Container" (2026) at Tanya Leighton, Berlin, Germany.

Her use of color does the rest. Somehow ethereal, grounded and rooted in the feminine, Rabbia depicts transient states of becoming, both through the physical and the spiritual forms. Nothing is fixed. Everything vibrating against the canvas of time. The show hangs proudly until the 10th of October.

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About the author:

Thom Oosterhof is an independent curator based in Amsterdam. His curatorial projects champion our future voices within the contemporary space. Working with recent graduates, mid-career & established artists, his projects emphasise conversations and ideas within the contemporary dialogue. As a curator, writer and advisor, he has worked with contemporary art galleries, institutions, collections and registered companies across the globe. He has curated exhibitions internationally with galleries such as NBB Gallery (Berlin), Gerhard Hofland (Amsterdam), NightCafe Gallery (London), Monti8 (Rome), Marian Cramer (Amsterdam), Hurst Contemporary (London), Le Mont Art Space (Taiwan), Ruzy Gallery (Istanbul) with platforms such as 24HDROP, 4bySIX, Clovermill Artist Residency and Candid House. Voted a 'Curator to Watch in 2024' by FollowArt, he has curated exhibitions as part of the Istanbul Biennale 2025 programme and the 20th edition of Contemporary Istanbul. Additionally, he is the Head Curator at The Dean Hotel in Berlin.

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