

Fri 24 Jan – Fri 21 Mar 2025

WORKING TITLE: I ♥ ARTISTS & OCEANS

Opening reception: Thu 23 Jan, 6-8pm

Artists:

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| Lulua Alyahya | Zeynep Kayan |
| Valerian Goalec | Valeria Schneider |
| Angélique Heidler | Zinong Zhang |



Wrought in the tides of a year becoming, *Working Title: I ♥ Artists & Oceans* is a group exhibition. Surfaced here are artworks by **Lulua Alyahya** and **Valérián Goalec**, artworks by **Angélique Heidler**, **Zeynep Kayan**, **Valeria Schneider** and **Zinong Zhang**; art workings that ebb and flow in form and in thinking.

Belmacz's thrives on arts expansiveness; we love to get lost in the vastness of horizons, be these red-blue, lilac, opal, deep peach or pearl. From this sea of passion, *Working Title: I ♥ Artists & Oceans*, brings together a range of artists each of whom we have felt inspired by; artists who make us want to venture forth and further, to places known or new and to experience again and again the full on verbosity of life — living.

We know that this is our romantic projection, the joys of art present such far off looking.

The artists in *Working Title: I ♥ Artists & Oceans* do more than offer a dreamy reflection on life, they provide a material kick, demanding that we do the work of thinking free(&)dom for ourselves. That we sit with their artworks and chart where we can venture with them; physically or at least with them in mind. In an epoch of ever greater in-progressiveness, where one is often exposed to numb faced chatter, Lulua and Valérián and Angélique, Zeynep, Valeria and Zinong provide us with an ode to renewal.

Lulua Alyahya (b. 1998, Washington D.C, USA) graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art (UK) in 2020 and Goldsmiths, University of London (UK) in 2024. Her paintings are sparsely composed of dislocated subjects, interwoven to map connections between masculinity and urbanisation, expanse and constraint, tradition and transformation. Recent exhibitions include, Alice Amati, London (UK), 2024; Studio Chapple, London (UK), 2024; Quench Gallery, Margate (UK), 2022; The Residence Gallery, London (UK), 2022, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), 2021.

Valérian Goalec (b. 1986, Rennes, France) completed his MFA at École Européenne Supérieure d'Art de Bretagne Rennes (France) in 2010. Valérian practice renders the known and existent otherwise. Often borrowing forms, objects and day-to-day things, his artworks can be understood as parts or as wholes; indeed one is not quite sure where his work ends, inviting ambiguity and multiple interpretations. Recent exhibitions include, CAPC — musée d'Art contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux (France) 2024 – 25; Can Félipa, Barcelona (Spain), 2024; UA26, Vienna (Austria), 2024; Mutter, Amsterdam (The Netherlands), 2024; Bananafish, Shanghai (China), 2024; 10n, Bruxelles (Belgium), 2023; OpenSpace, Nancy (France), 2023.

Angélique Heidler (b. 1992, Paris, France) graduated from Slade School of Fine Art (London, UK) in 2015. Bringing together elements of collage, sewing and painted imagery, her work emerges from a place of intuition. Drawing from the aesthetics of media and marketing, Angélique's artworks undermine consumerism's representations, highlighting how identity and individuality is a nuanced construction. Recent and forthcoming exhibitions include, Silke Lindner, New York (USA), 2025; Centre d'art contemporain - la synagogue de Delme, Delme (France), 2025; Galleri Opdahl, Stavanger (Norway), 2024; Café des Glaces, Tonnerre (France), 2024; Nir Altman, Munich (Germany), 2024; Weiss Falk, Zurich (Switzerland) 2024; Braunsfelder, Cologne (Germany) 2023; Chris Andrews, Montréal (Canada), 2023.

Zeynep Kayan (b. 1986, Ankara, Turkey) graduated from the Communication and Design Department of Bilkent University (Turkey) in 2008 before receiving a MA in Fine Arts from MaHKU in Utrecht (The Netherlands). Between 2022 and 2024 she was a resident at Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Zeynep embraces repetition as a way to explore structural setups and scenarios. Working across video, photography, sound and performance, her works express a vocabulary of the "self", or of the "human condition", one which escapes categorization. Recent exhibitions include, Zilberman, İstanbul (Turkey), 2024; İstanbul Modern Museum, İstanbul (Turkey), 2023; Volkskundenmuseum, Vienna (Austria), 2022; Protocinema, İstanbul (Turkey) 2022; Zona Maco Foto, Mexico, 2022; Paris Photo, Paris (France), 2022; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco (USA) 2021; Helsinki Contemporary, Helsinki (Finland), 2020.

Valeria Schneider (b. Kokchetav, Kazakhstan) studied in the class of Peter Piller and Özlem Altin at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig (Germany). Valeria's works deal with division and dualities, our physical and psychological limits and how these can be transformed. Utilising steel, textile and coloured pencils, she examines her surroundings and interpersonal relationships creating dreamlike maps or studies of her inner world existence. Recent exhibitions include, Galerie EIGEN+ART, Berlin (Germany), 2024; Universität der Künste, Berlin (Germany), 2023; SMAC gallery, Berlin (Germany), 2022; Kunstraum, Ortloff, Leipzig (Germany), 2022; IfZ Institut für Zukunft, Leipzig (Germany), 2021; SHE BAM! Galerie Laetitia Gorsy, Leipzig (Germany), 2020; Museum der Bildenden Künste, Leipzig (Germany), 2020.

Zinong Zhang (b. 1995, Inner Mongolia, China) graduated from Goldsmiths, University of London (UK) with an MFA in Fine Art in 2023. Working sculpturally, through the complex of multiplicity, her work blurs linear and binary conditions, reimagining these as chaotic flows where paradoxes can coexist. Recent exhibitions include, Gerald Moore Gallery, London (UK), 2023; Ugly Duck, London (UK), 2023; APT Gallery, London (UK), 2023; Copeland Park, London (UK), 2022; Deptford X, London (UK), 2022; Lumen Crypt Gallery, London (UK), 2022; Hyphy Studio, London (UK), 2022.

Belmacz is a contemporary art gallery and showroom based in central London. The gallery focuses on supporting artists to grow their practice; working with them to develop specific solo exhibitions and projects, as well as by re-contextualising their work through renowned group exhibitions. Belmacz's showroom is a space dedicated to displaying Julia Muggenburg's jewellery.

Founded in 2000 by Julia Muggenburg, 'Belmacz' is a composite name: combining the male adjective 'bel' (from the French for beautiful), 'maximum,' and 'cz' (from the Slavic alphabet). With a further reference to the iconic 20th century jeweller Suzanne Belperron, 'Belmacz' alludes to Muggenburg's founding vision for the gallery as well as her expansive design practice.

Instagram: [@belmaczlondon](https://www.instagram.com/belmaczlondon)