

PRESS RELEASE



Naomie Kremer, *Cyclades* (2015) Oil on linen 61.5 x 78.5"

Rhythm in the Blues

Alia Ali, Aigana Gali, Azadeh Ghotbi, Naomie Kremer, and Lucille Lewin

Curated by Pamela Bryan and Julia Campbell Carter

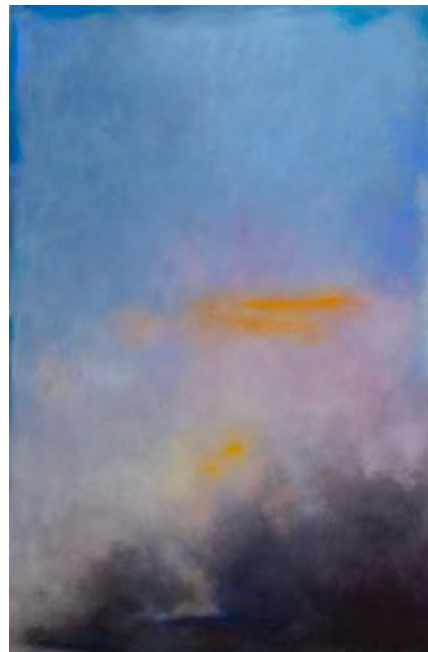
Founder of Octavia Art Gallery, New Orleans, Pamela Bryan and London-based curator and art advisor Julia Campbell Carter are proud to co-present *Rhythm in the Blues*, a dynamic group exhibition at 14 Percy Street, London, taking place from 11 – 20 May.

In a world of geo-political fracture and uncertainty, this exhibition unites and celebrates the creative voices of five acclaimed international contemporary artists each embodying a distinct multiplicity of nationalities, cultures, perspectives and medium – **Alia Ali, Aigana Gali, Azadeh Ghotbi, Naomie Kremer, and Lucille Lewin**. The exhibition affirms the vital importance of art and multi-disciplinary culture and their impact on how we understand the world and our place within it.

The works on view engage in a dynamic dialogue around rhythm, migration, memory, and place, forged through an exchange between New Orleans and London - two cities deeply rooted in layered musical histories. *Rhythm in the Blues* draws from the cultural and historical legacy of Rhythm and Blues as an art form shaped by movement, resilience, and lived experience. Through repetition, tonal variation, and intuitive form, the artists explore rhythm as both structure and inheritance, reflecting on diaspora, identity, and the transmission of memory. The result is a resonant visual language that invites viewers to not only see but feel the enduring pulse of history.



Alia Ali, *Peak* (2024)
Archival pigment print, mounted, UV laminated,
frame upholstered by the artist in hand-printed
wood block Rajasthani, 66 x 45, 1/2 x 3 inches



Aigana Gali, *Tan Ata*
Acrylic, oil on canvas
122 x 182cm

Alia Ali's practice draws on Yemeni heritage and is shaped by movement, displacement, and research. Collaborating with Indigenous communities worldwide, her multimedia work engages material traditions and shared systems of knowledge across time and place. Language is central to her practice, understood as embodied beyond speech or text. Through photography, textiles, sculpture, and installation, she explores cultural memory, lived histories, and lineage while examining power and how knowledge is preserved and reimagined. She is a Jameel Fellow at the Victoria and Albert Museum and a Global Nikon Ambassador.

For the Georgian-Kazakh painter **Aigana Gali**, meanwhile, ancient cosmologies such as Tengrism, inform luminous abstract canvases that evoke the vastness, light and mythic landscapes of the Eurasian Steppe. Her work explores colour, spirituality and human connection to nature through expansive, atmospheric forms. Gali's paintings, shown internationally - including at the Saatchi Gallery and the Royal Academy of Arts - blend intuitive gesture and movement, like a musician improvising with an instrument.

With a practice based on movement and a multiplicity of perspectives, London-based Iranian-American painter and photographer **Azadeh Ghotbi** explores themes of transience and belonging in stunning, abstract, gestural canvases that are deeply rooted in her unique personal experience and keen sense of observation. Her work aims to foster a deeper understanding and empathy for others. She invites us to pause, reflect, look beyond the surface and reveal the beauty in noticing the unseen.



Azadeh Ghotbi, *Untitled* (2023)

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm



Lucille Lewin, *Ultimate Intention* (2023)

Porcelain

50 x 29 x 30 cm

A suite of abstract oil paintings by Israeli-born American artist **Naomie Kremer**, with their jagged, geometric forms, create a disorienting perceptual experience, an ambiguous atmosphere inviting the viewer to get lost and allow new, free associations to form in the mind. Although largely abstract, Kremer's imagery draws from the real world, incorporating references to nature, architecture, language, letterforms and the human figure. Her work is informed by art history, music, poetry, and literature, and is included in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art and the US Embassy in Beijing, China, among others.



British South African sculptor **Lucille Lewin** – formerly the founder of Whistles and Creative Director of Liberty – creates works that are fractured metaphors for human experience through time. Her seemingly delicate, poetic pieces are personal and political. She models porcelain clay, dips, slips, casts and throws it before it is cut-up, pressed, extruded, broken and reassembled, a rigorous process of construction and deconstruction, akin to a composer, building her works to a gradual crescendo.

This celebration of bold, borderless creativity is both empowering and enlivening – bringing together distinct yet resonant practices.

Rhythm in the Blues celebrates the power of art as a shared language through which these artists transform rhythm, harmony, sound and ancestral echoes into bold visual expression.

**14 Percy Street
London, W1T 1DR
May 11 – 20, 2026
Exhibition open 10am – 6pm daily**

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For media, marketing and sales enquiries or further information, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

Pamela Bryan founded **Octavia Art Gallery** in 2008 in New Orleans. Octavia Art Gallery presents the works of emerging, mid-career, and established artists with diverse cultural backgrounds and a strong focus on abstraction. The gallery represents contemporary international artists in London, France, Marrakech, Belgium, and Mexico, as well as the estates of first-generation Abstract Expressionist artist Fritz Bultman and Art Deco sculptor Enrique Alférez. Octavia Art gallery participates in renowned national and international art fairs and seasonal pop-up exhibitions in New York and London. Bryan is directly involved with organizations seeking to preserve art, architecture, and culture. She completed her undergraduate degree in English Literature and Accounting and her graduate degree in Art History, both from Tulane University.

<https://www.octaviaartgallery.com/>

JULIA CAMPBELL CARTER
ART ADVISOR ♦ CURATOR

O C T A V I A
ART GALLERY



Julia Campbell Carter is an experienced and discrete art advisor based in central London. Raised in Germany and Spain, she speaks fluent English, German and Spanish. Having grown up with parents who were passionate collectors of modern and contemporary art, Julia is now a serious collector and advisor herself, with a keen interest not only in the aesthetic value of art but also its economic and investment potential. After studying law in Germany, she moved to Spain where she built a successful business dealing with luxury assets and property, gaining a unique understanding of acquisition and investment from a client perspective, strong negotiation skills, and valuable relationships within the art world. Her primary focus is modern and contemporary art, and she has supplemented her experience with art courses across Europe and at Christie's in London. Working with private, corporate and institutional clients, Julia helps to build collections, sell specific pieces and provide a deeper understanding of the market, using her expertise to locate, negotiate and purchase art that meets each client's taste, image and budget.

<https://jcampbellcarter.com/>