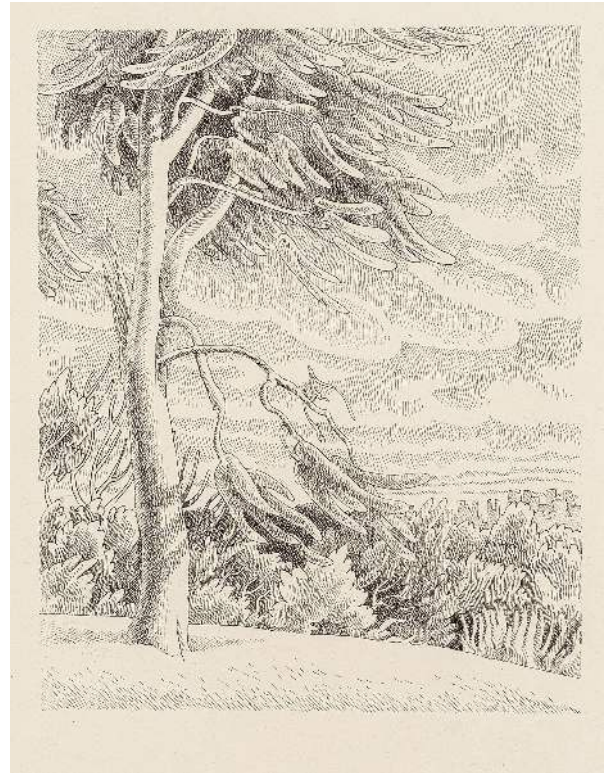


## Madeleine Bialke: Landmark

11 July - 14 September 2024



*Landmark (Hampstead Heath), 2024*

Madeleine Bialke

Huxley-Parlour are delighted to announce *Landmark*, an exhibition of new works on paper by Madeleine Bialke. Presenting ten drawings in ink, the exhibition explores the artist's continued preoccupation with the natural and the anthropomorphic qualities of trees. The works on paper depict scenes from across London, examining the interplay of built and organic environments.

Bialke embarked on the series in pursuit of a sense of belonging in a new city, following a relocation from New York. Transplanted into new surroundings, the artist sought out the city's green spaces as a means of anchoring herself within a new territory. Bialke looked to create a common language for London's trees and foliage as a vessel through which she may find her commonality with an unfamiliar setting. Initially using a list of the great trees of London as a point of departure, Bialke quickly deviated towards those less familiar and more inconsequential. As in her paintings, which often suggest only the hint of the urban with a glowing horizon or a singular building dwarfed by a shroud of trees, Bialke's works on paper prioritise the natural environment, the city appearing as though a small moment far removed.

Bialke's technique in ink has developed over the last decade, drawing from the etchings of European masters Rembrandt and Tiepolo while at graduate school in Boston. Her approach to hatching and cross-hatching lends tone and rhythm to the works. Inspired by Italian painter and designer Giorgio Morandi, Bialke builds her compositions with parallel and perpendicular lines in order to give form to her subjects.

Bialke's deft handling of line enlivens her works, as dense heavier lines create stability and volume, bristling against more open mark-making that conversely lends a fluidity. This contrast instigates a shift within Bialke's compositions, animating her subjects in anthropomorphic ways. In *Landmark (Holland Park)*, the central tree appears as if a figure study, its branches mimic outstretched arms, while its rooted trunk evokes a presence that is both otherworldly and human-like. This effect is heightened in *Landmark (Bedford Square)* where the tree's trunk appears to ooze through the fence, pushing back against its constraints. Giving space to the city's quieter, overlooked residents, Bialke invites the viewer to share in a reconsideration of our surroundings.

Bialke was born in 1991 in New York. In 2013, she received her BFA in Studio Art from the Plattsburgh State University of New York and gained an MFA in Painting at Boston University, Massachusetts, in 2016. Bialke completed a residency at North Western Oklahoma State University in 2018 and in 2024 was the artist-in-residence at the Nemeth Art Center, Park Rapids, Minnesota. In 2016, she was awarded the John Walker MFA Painting and Sculpture Award. Bialke has had solo exhibitions internationally, mostly recently *Giants in the Dusk*, Huxley-Parlour, London in 2023; *Death Motel*, Newchild Gallery, Antwerp in 2022; *Nine Lives*, Steve Turner, Los Angeles in 2022; *Long Summer*, Huxley-Parlour, London in 2021; *Mothers & Daughters*, Visions West Contemporary, Denver in 2020. Her work is included in the collection of Beth Rudin DeWoody, the X Museum, and Fundación MEDIANOCHE0. She lives and works in London.

Madeleine Bialke

Landmark

11 July - 14 September 2024

HUXLEY-PARLOUR

3-5 Swallow Street, London W1B 4DE

Opening Hours Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 5:30pm

Saturdays, 1:30pm - 5:30pm

Entry is free

More information can be found online at [www.huxleyparlour.com](http://www.huxleyparlour.com)