

Union Hall is pleased to present our inaugural exhibition, *A land more kind than home*: paintings by Deborah Brown. Brown's recent paintings depict a female protagonist basking in pastoral settings along with her animal companions. The titles of her works are often drawn from myths and stories from antiquity, both literary and religious, drawing associations to canonical artworks historically painted by male "masters." With this body of work, Brown takes a revisionist approach to the stories depicted, complicating the male gaze that is present in the historical works of literature and art that she references. The female characters in her work are unrestricted by assumptions of female vulnerability or dependence on male actors for their legitimacy.

In *A land more kind than home*, a selection of paintings focused on the landscape and animals accompany Brown's figural pieces. Together, the works in this exhibition are arranged so as to draw the viewer through a paradise of female autonomy, a magical forest where mythical women are powerful, unencumbered, and vulnerable without risk. Brown's figures define themselves within the paintings, and as they define themselves they define the space around them. It is a utopian idea, a visual representation of what we as feminists hope for and fight for, for all women— the ability to self-determine without boundaries.