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Press Release

## Dianna Settles *A Thousand Paths Bloom*

14 September - 14 October 2023  
Galerie Marguo, 4 rue des Minimes, 75003 Paris



*"I want to feel a part of the world, to have stakes in the ways I move through the world that remind me of my place in it and its place in me."*

— Dianna Settles

Galerie Marguo is pleased to present *A Thousand Paths Bloom*, a solo exhibition of recent paintings by the Atlanta-based artist Dianna Settles. On view from 14 September to 14 October, this exhibition marks the artist's first solo exhibition in Europe.

Drawing inspiration from time spent in both France and in the Southeastern United States, Settles' paintings collapse time, space, life, and death into narrative-driven works that chronicle farming, communal living, spirituality, and contemporary land-based struggles common to both geographies. Notably, Settles' most recent paintings incorporate images of friends, animals, and other figures who are no longer living, a reverent nod to the cyclical nature of life and the reality that we are collectively made up of all that has ever lived and died before.

Writer and poet Irene Silt writes of Dianna Settles' work: "While they did their work, I followed my inclination. This is a matter of experience. You cannot grasp it and it will never happen. Beauty is recognized as so, as is the ugly. Something is only in relation to nothing. What is difficult relents to my ease. Each canopy and stump incline toward each other. What I heard and what it was harmonized. Before you died and after you were dead follow each other. The beings that surround me are in use of and by my body. In my longing I made no frantic moves. I waited as the frantic moved around my task. I will not tell you what I did because I know you were there. Just as it rose from a heap of earth, I will not explain. The forge provides a supply that never fails. When worked, more flows out. By accepting the dirt, I know its soil shrines. I long for the earth to carry out my deed. I sweat for what is to be done, giving rise to now notion. There will be no burden of consequence. It happened of its own accord.

*A Thousand Paths Bloom* is a body of work on contact without claim. The scenes are intimate and the figures are occupied. There is no painting of life, only life held in the painting. Parasites feed as the ground gives rise to food. Those who have passed appear as the rest. To awaken the dead, poetry must be the very stuff of life. Here we are as poets of action. From the background an uncomfortable hue floats forward. The aggression of earth does not settle. The most careful details are in the rot, the scars, the aftermath still acting. Things are flattened so that we may gaze over ourselves without classification or rank. We can recall or realize. The colors and shapes of memory morph into aspiration. Poetic compositions give way to our yearning. Failure's refrain gives way to all merit. A merit that will never desert us."

### **About the Artist**

Dianna Settles is a Vietnamese-American artist in Atlanta, Georgia who received her BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2014. Her current work explores moments of joyful stillness amidst the cascading series of crises called modern life, accomplished through her synthesis of traditional Vietnamese and classical European painting styles.

Recent exhibition highlights include solo shows, *A Life Worth Living Would Be A Life Worth Living* at MARCH in New York, *Olly Olly Oxen Free* at Institute 193 in Lexington, KY and *A Thousand Paths Bloom* at Galerie Marguo in Paris. Dianna Settles' work has been presented in numerous group shows including Galerie Marguo in Menorca, MARCH at the Dallas Art Fair, and MINT in Atlanta. As the inaugural artist of Living Walls' international exchange program, she completed the 180' long mural *To Our Friends / À Nos Amis* in Paris, France in July of 2019, adding to her portfolio of work as a muralist in Atlanta, Oakland, and Pittsburgh. She was a finalist for the 2019 Forward Arts Foundation Edge Award and was recently accepted into the Atlanta Contemporary Studio Artist Program.

In addition to her own art practice, Dianna Settles runs Hi-Lo Press, a print studio and art gallery in Atlanta.

### **Press Inquiries**

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Dianna Settles  
*99 flowers open like an open head*  
(*abundancing together, the living altar*), 2023  
Acrylic, gouache, and colored pencil on wood panel  
81.3 x 61 cm (32 x 24 in)