

# Daisy Dodd-Noble

## The Land is Speaking

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**MASSIMODECARLO is pleased to present *The Land is Speaking*, Daisy Dodd-Noble's first exhibition with the gallery in London.**

For eighteen months, Dodd-Noble returned to the same water meadow in a garden in Wiltshire - through one winter, one spring, one long summer, and back round again - and painted what she found there. The premise sounds methodical, a kind of fieldwork. What emerged from it was something closer to a courtship: the longer she looked, the more the meadow had to say.

This is the territory the exhibition moves through - not nature as scenery, but nature as someone you might come to know. The idea that the land is in communication with us has long been a recurring theme in English folklore, as well as in many cultures around the world. Across generations and geographies, the land has been understood as inhabited by omens, by guardian beings, by forces that warn, guide, and reveal. Modernity tends to file this under superstition, a charming misreading later corrected by science. Dodd-Noble's paintings make a gentler, more obstinate case: that the instinct wasn't a misreading at all, just a different kind of attention - one that pays off if you're willing to stay still long enough to receive it.

The three sites she painted share a particular quality. None of them is wilderness, exactly, and none is fully cultivated either. They sit somewhere between the two - gardens, meadows, and farmed land where the people responsible for them have chosen to work with the land's own tendencies rather than override them: regenerative farming, deliberate planting, ecological restoration left to unfold at its own pace. The result is landscape as a kind of ongoing negotiation, visible in the tangle of a hedgerow or the particular way light falls through a copse that's been allowed to thicken on its own terms. These places carry the evidence of decisions and of decisions deferred.

It is from this way of working that Dodd-Noble's eighteen months in a Wiltshire garden grew into the exhibition's foundation. Returning to the same water meadow across the seasons is, on one level, a simple discipline - paint what's in front of you, again and

again, until you've seen it through a full cycle. "As my familiarity deepened," she says, "so too did my sense of the possibility that the land possesses a form of sentience, or that a tree might hold a spirit or presence of its own with which we can form a connection." Repetition does something to how a place is seen. A single visit gives you categories such as spring, a tree, birdsong. Months and months of visits give you specifics: new shoots after a winter; an old tree that, seen often enough, starts to feel less like scenery and more like a presence with its own temperament; birds and insects whose sounds feel like an ongoing exchange that was underway long before the painter arrived, and will carry on once she's gone.

What Dodd-Noble brings back from these encounters isn't an argument exactly, the paintings don't try to convince anyone that trees have spirits, or that meadows are sentient in any sense a scientist could test. They do something more useful than arguing: they suggest possibility, and let the feeling of it sit on the canvas long enough for a viewer to recognise it as familiar. "In the small pockets of wild England explored throughout this series," Dodd-Noble reflects, "the landscape has often felt alive and responsive. These paintings are an attempt to give form to that feeling: to the possibility that the land is not silent, but speaking."

**Daisy Dodd-Noble**

Daisy Dodd-Noble was born in 1989 in London, UK. She lives and works in Wiltshire, UK.

Depicting landscapes from life with a lively surrealism, Dodd-Noble paints caricatures of the natural world: trees, plants, sunsets, hills. Exploring the larger topics of environmentalism, consciousness and our relationship to nature, her expansive scenes give way to an alternate, yet familiar, reality.

Since graduating from her MFA at the New York Academy of Arts in 2016, Dodd-Noble has featured in gallery exhibitions internationally.

Recent exhibitions include: *New York Academy of Art CHUBB Fellows and Friends*, Curated by Katherine Delony, Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, TX, US (2025); *Truth of the Forest*, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique (2024); *I look at the moon like a fellow traveller*, Lamb Gallery London (2024); *Origins*, L21 Barcelona, L'Hospitalet – Barcelona, Spain (2022); *Two Sisters*, Roman Road Gallery, London, UK (2022); *When Life Doesn't Give You Lemons*, Tchotchke Gallery, New York, US (2020); *Idle Thoughts*, Soho Revue, London, UK (2020).