



Canyon, 2024. Oil on canvas, 84 x 66 inches.

Claire Sherman: *Petrichor*

February 27 –
March 29, 2025

Opening Reception:
February 27, 6-8 pm

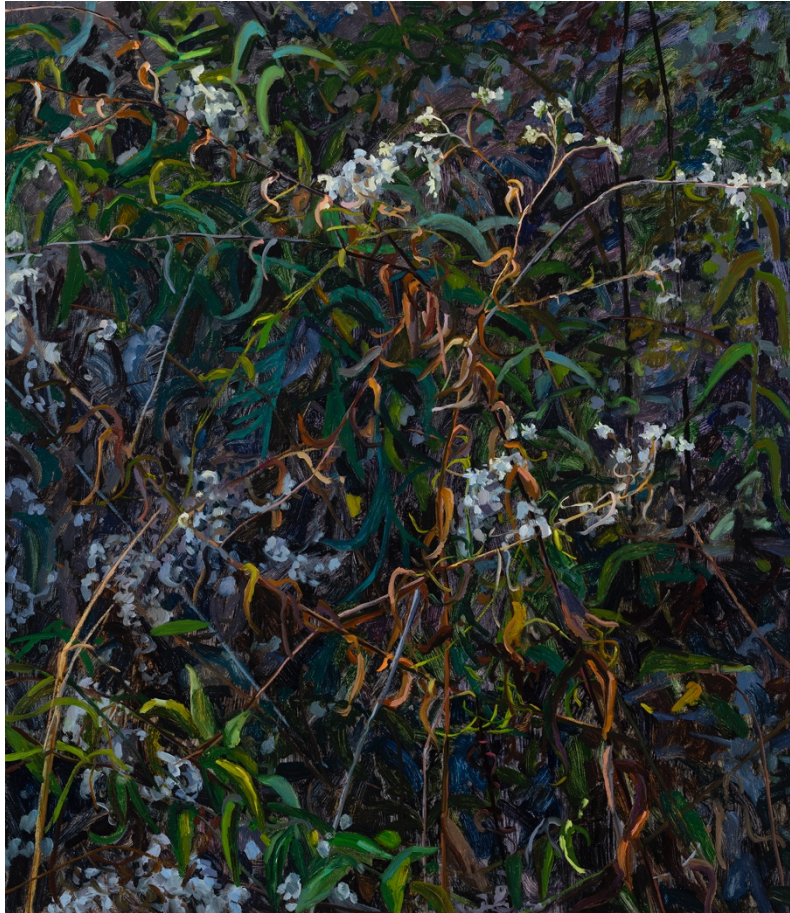
DC Moore Gallery is pleased to present *Claire Sherman: Petrichor*. In this exhibition of large-scale landscapes, Claire Sherman explores the desert as a site of dramatic juxtaposition. Complicating the imagery associated with grand, sublime landscapes of the American West, Sherman focuses on subjects that exist at the periphery of our attention, distorting scale and perspective to draw us into new spaces.

In Sherman's paintings of rocky canyons, waterfalls, crevices, and desert flora, spaces enclose and unravel around the viewer. Light pours through narrow gaps in these imposing edifices, suggesting a path through. Sherman visualizes the oppositions inherent to the desert, of extreme heat contrasted to the evidence of water, manifested in spaces carved out by the force of water and the growth of wildflowers and sagebrush.

The exhibition's title, *Petrichor*, refers to a sweet smell that arrives in the desert after it rains, released from the dry soil. Sherman relates the scent of petrichor to anticipation, heralding a storm as well as signaling to animals to follow the scent to water. Sherman's paintings present this multivalent phenomenon as akin to the sublime, something alluring that can also portend danger.

The works in the exhibition are informed by the artist's own experiences hiking several American deserts over many seasons. The locations vary widely, appearing at once particular and

ubiquitous. The anonymity of place allows the paintings to open up psychological spaces, becoming their own locations. Sherman's gestural brushwork, painted wet-on-wet, creates dense tangles of undergrowth, geological strata, and thunderous waterfalls. Shifting between abstraction and representation, Sherman captures a moment between movement and stasis, suspending the viewer in the unsettled rhythms of the natural world.



Wildflowers, 2024. Oil on canvas, 30 x 26 inches.

This exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with a text by Terry Tempest Williams excerpted from *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks*.

Claire Sherman has exhibited widely throughout the United States and in Amsterdam, Leipzig, London, Seoul, and Turin. She has completed residencies at the Terra Foundation for American Art in Giverny, the MacDowell Colony, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Workspace program, the Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program, Yaddo, and the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation. Sherman earned her BA from The University of Pennsylvania in 2003 and her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2005.

DC Moore Gallery specializes in contemporary and twentieth-century art. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am-6pm. For more information, photographs, or to arrange a viewing please call 212-247-2111 or email Caroline Magavern at cmagavern@dcmooregallery.com.