

# THE NEW YORKER

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ART

## Jessie Makinson / Phumelele Tshabalala

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Oct. 28-Dec. 11

Lyles & King 21  
Catherine St.  
Downtown

646-484-5478

In concurrent solo shows at the Lyles & King gallery, two painters—one British and one South African—conjure different, but equally opulent, mythic worlds. The London-based Makinson depicts sinister pleasure gardens and twilight pavilions, populated by women, animals, and sexy hybrids of the two. The witchy, conspiratorial mood of her exhibition is conveyed by its title, “Stay here while I get a curse.” The panoramic centerpiece features an orgiastic vision of chaos, equal parts Bruegel and Leonora Carrington. Tshabalala, who works in Johannesburg, uses fantastical imagery to counter colonialist histories, depicting Black joy in vibrant space-collapsing compositions, in his New York solo debut, “The act of witnessing the descendants of Hope.” The mixed-media, gilt, and Day-Glo canvas “When the dust subsides,” a psychedelic combination of contemporary figuration and magic realism, is emblematic of his rapturous approach.

—*Johanna Fateman*