

LYDIA MCKEE
THE HEART OF THE MAZE

November 14 -18, 2024
8620 Melrose Ave
West Hollywood, CA 90069



Lydia McKee, *Love Letter*, 2024, acrylic, oil pastel, 60 x 72 inches (153x182cm)

Lydia McKee presents her first Los Angeles based show, '*The Heart of The Maze*' – An Exploration of Intrusive Thoughts, Authenticity, and Peace of Mind. The exhibition will be on display at 8260 Melrose Ave from Thursday, November 14th to Monday, November 18th, showcasing a new body of work from her ongoing '*Daydreamer*' series.

Lydia McKee (b. 1998, London, UK) is an independent artist based in Los Angeles. McKee graduated in 2020, Chapman University with a degree in Fine Arts & Painting. She has established placements in notable private collections, selling her work through word of mouth and social media. McKee began her exploration of paint at a young age and has continued to create art throughout her life as an exploration of self expression, perceptions and the subconscious experience. McKee thrives on working on a large scale, utilizing the movements of her body to guide the composition of the work and to apply a unique mark-making technique. Lydia's artistic approach involves painting larger scale works directly onto raw canvas with scale becoming a defining feature of her practice and a way of '*taking up space.*'

Her work explores the intersections of thought, emotion, and identity. Her art is a reflection of her journey to navigate the complexities of the mind, with each piece serving as a love letter to her own experiences.

The Heart of The Maze invites visitors to step into Lydia McKee's world—a world where the mind is both a maze and a sanctuary. The exhibition showcases the power of art as a tool for self-discovery and emotional expression. Each painting in the series reflects McKee's quest to find balance and clarity, to breathe in the spaces between thoughts, and to embrace the emptiness of the canvas as a symbol of serenity.

From a distance, the paintings appear as intricate systems, mirroring the overwhelming nature of the mind's internal processes. However, as viewers draw closer, they are greeted by the delicate lines and shapes that reveal the artist's meticulous attention to detail and her desire for clarity and calm.

Lydia McKee's artworks draw parallels between her artistic decision-making and the complex nature of mazes. Just as mazes are designed to disorient those who enter, with the ultimate goal of finding the center, Lydia's art mirrors this journey. She instinctively creates intricate networks of lines, distortion, and disorder, utilizing the spaces in between as a means of finding comfort and solace within her paintings.

The paintings demonstrate an assertive style that has been developed largely through McKee's own experimentations with mark-making and spontaneous expression. Through her unique artistic process, McKee transforms these inner experiences into visual narratives, crafting pieces that serve as both personal reflections and universal explorations of the human experience.

Having always relied on art as a means of expression in place of words, McKee explores the inner turmoil and anxiety associated with not knowing what to create. This series is a reflection of her journey through uncertainty, the stress of potential disapproval, and the process of experimenting with new ideas.

"For me, my art is a form of a love letter," says McKee. "It's a way to secretly communicate my deepest thoughts and emotions, to understand myself better, and to connect with my intuition. This series is an intimate portrayal of my journey toward authenticity and peace of mind, amidst the constant noise of intrusive thoughts."