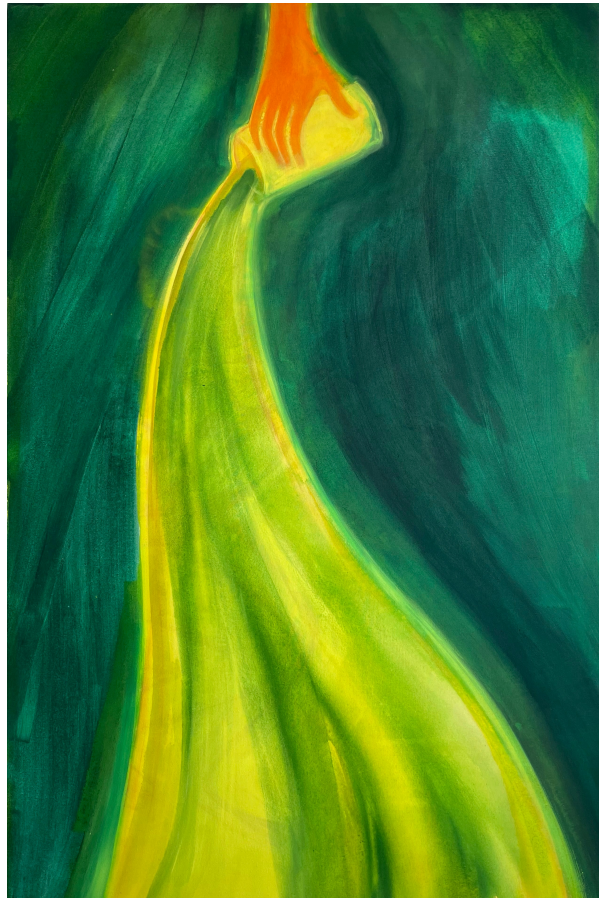


Presenting Cecilia Granara's London debut: *Brittle Stars*



Exhibition dates: 28 January - 26 February 2022

Opening reception: Thursday 27 January, 6-8pm

Sapling is thrilled to present Cecilia Granara's solo exhibition and her London debut. The Paris-based painter arrives in the UK after solos in Paris and Milan and in the wake of a flurry of attention, her paintings illustrated on the front page of the Figaro during FIAC 2021.

Granara uses painting, drawing, writing, and installation to explore self-fiction, poetry and symbolic iconography. She draws on cultural attitudes to sexuality and bodies, using colour as a vehicle for emotions. For this exhibition, she has created a new body of work that employ iconographic and emotive cues to reach through eyes of the viewer into the heart and the gut.

The title "Brittle Stars" makes reference to nature and ancient symbolism: a sea creature with five spindly legs emerging from a central circular node, itself a symbol of the Ancient Egyptian goddess of the sky, Nut, who bends backwards on her hands and feet to bridge the stars and earth. Like all starfish, a brittle star regenerates limbs when they are lost.

"Cup Spilling (infinite)" (2021) [illustrated] depicts an orange hand tipping yellow paint into space, merging with green. Inspired by David Batchelor's concept of chromophobia, the Western canon's fear of colour for its potential to corrupt or contaminate formal concepts, Granara instead leans into this potential. Lime yellows, oranges, purples and greens break with what academic painters consider proper use, subverting the gendered aspect of classical colour convention: that colour is

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emotional, and the emotional is female. Cecilia chooses novel hues with desire, joy, and anger in equal measure, all forces necessary to break down walls.

Cecilia Granara (b. 1991, Saudi Arabia) works in Paris and is showing in London for the first time. Of Italian nationality, she grew up in Mexico City, Rome, Chicago. Since graduating from Central St. Martin's School of Art and Design in London and at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris and Hunter College in New York City, the artist has presented several impactful solo shows. Solo shows include solo stand at FIAC 2021, "0 infinity 21" , "Quatre Coeurs" at Exo Exo, Paris and "Lasciare Entrare, Lasciare Andare" at Studiolo Project, Milan. She participated in group shows at Derrouillon Gallery, Galerie Jousse Entreprise, High Art, ps120 Berlin, Brigade Copenhagen. She was a finalist in the Antoine Marin Prize in 2019 and has been nominated for the Cairo Prize in 2021.

Sapling is a new space for art in Mayfair, founded by Charlotte Call. *Brittle Stars* is part of a series of exhibitions exploring the relationship between art and nature. The gallery showcases both emerging and established artists alongside an experimental programme of events.

Press Enquiries:

Charlotte Call: charlotte@sapling.gallery

Visit:

Sapling
124 Mount Street Mews
London W1K 3NR

Tuesday - Saturday, 12–6pm
No appointment necessary