
Frieze

Critics' Guides /

As Zona Maco Opens, the Best Exhibitions to See Across Mexico City

BY LAYLA FASSA
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From art world funnyman Michael Smith's alter-ego to Ambera Wellmann's fleshy configurations, a selection of shows not to miss





Ambera Wellmann, *The Subject*, 2019. oil on linen, 52 x 52 cm.
 Courtesy: the artist and Lulu, Mexico City

Ambera Wellmann: 'In medias res' <<https://frieze.com/event/ambera-wellmann>>

Lulu

5 February – 6 April

The female gaze is a term that gets thrown around a lot whenever a woman makes work, especially work dealing with the figure. The viewer occupies just one role in the gaze's trifecta of looking; in painting, there is also the painter and the painted subject's acts of seeing. If you decide to engage in this visual choreography, Ambera Wellmann's paintings don't give you a chance to blink. This collection of seven paintings come together like cumulus clouds against an ebullient sky. Full and fleshy figures are molded in erotic configurations and plastered against saturated chromatic backgrounds, realized with oil on linen. Lulu, being a small space, demands that you get close to the action. In *Impingenous* (2019), the figures are amid wrestles of love, seemingly bathed in canary yellow sunlight, while a lavender field is suggested as their bed of flora. Body parts shift in and out of focus, a mix of emotional expression and anatomical observation. The blurring of queered violence and earth trembling intensity recall Francis Bacon's paintings, but such postured masculinity need not enter the frame of these compositions.