

ELLE WICKENS

Skin After Successive Skin

Ames Yavuz

Opening reception: 23 May, 4–6pm

On view: 23 May – 20 June 2026

Location: Ames Yavuz Sydney, 114 Commonwealth Street Surry Hills NSW

Ames Yavuz is pleased to present *Skin After Successive Skin*, the first solo exhibition by Elle Wickens with the gallery.

Skin after Successive Skin is born of a story of feminine transformation, rebirth and embodiment; a story that led the artist to imagine how the felt language of the body can be recorded through material, how sensation can paint, and how painting itself speaks of, from and to the body.

In this exhibition, Wickens creates an environment that echoes her own sensory tones, a space where interpretation is embodied, co-produced, and where multiple possibilities occur at once. Here, painting and installation are modes of communicating body to body. Through a considered material approach, painting becomes a layered sensorial language that Wickens employs to both process and communicate her being to the world.

Skin After Successive Skin takes its title from the closing lines of Angela Carter's short story *The Tiger's Bride*, a feminist subversion of *The Beauty and the Beast*, in which a woman's father loses her in a card game to a masked Beast. Through intimate, detailed descriptions of skin and fur, Carter makes palpable the performative barriers used to conceal a more animalistic force within, one that precedes societal expectation. The story's ending, in which the heroine is transformed as the Beast licks her skin, became a driving motif for Wickens: the process of shedding a veiled surface to reveal a carnal state beneath as a form of liberation

This tension between the performed facade and the act of unveiling, between concealment and its eventual undoing, runs through both bodies of painting. The polyester works often feature close-ups of glowingly-perfect, long golden hair whose artifice feels seductive yet uncanny. The suede works, by contrast, are painted into rather than on the surface, using lighter tones against dark grounds. They connect more closely to Carter's Beast: something lurking beneath, emerging from within.

Skin After Successive Skin explores the transference between artwork and audience; where the experience of an image or material can converge or depart from that of another, and where both artist and audience can explore their sensory experiences of the world together.

PRESS RELEASE

AMES YAVUZ

Selected Works



Elle Wickens, *A Tremendous Throbbing*, 2026, Oil on Suede, 97 x 76.5 cm



Elle Wickens, *Her Cluster of Eggs Swell Like Cysts*, 2026, Oil on Poly Cotton, 183 x 136 cm

PRESS RELEASE

AMES YAVUZ



Elle Wickens, *In the Viscera of the Palace*, 2026, Oil on Suede, 100 x 75cm

PRESS RELEASE

AMES YAVUZ

About the artist

Elle Wickens (b. 1994, Australia) explores the imaginary systems and symbolic languages of the body through painting and installation. Rooted in psychoanalysis and philosophy, her practice incorporates considered materials such as suede and latex with themes of incertitude, fantasy, and the imaginary to investigate the complex and often slippery relationships between the sensorial body, identity, and perception. Wickens is interested in how painting can record the elusive material and affective dimensions of bodily subjectivity and symbolic representation.

Wickens holds a Master of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts from the National Art School. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions and art fairs across Australia, Asia, and Europe, including Art Basel Hong Kong (2025); *The Devoted Eye*, Ames Yavuz, Sydney (2025); ART021, Shanghai (2024); *Dreamscape*, Ames Yavuz, Sydney (2024); *Dancing With No Music*, Ambush Gallery, Sydney (2022); *Hatched*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Perth (2021); and *In Good Company*, Gaffa Gallery, Sydney (2021). Wickens received the Clitheroe Foundation MFA Scholarship in 2020, the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship, and the Shark Island Residency in 2024. Wickens' work is held in the collection of Western Sydney University and in private collections across Australia, Asia, and Europe.

About the gallery

Ames Yavuz embraces its diverse cultural background through a strong international focus and perspective. The gallery's vision is underpinned by robust curatorial practices that form the core of our program and foster intercultural discourse on a global scale.

Representing a wide range of multidisciplinary artists across continents, Ames Yavuz aims to challenge, inspire, and reclaim through art. The gallery provides a platform for transformative and compelling artistic voices who bring care and attention to the most urgent conversations of our time, and celebrates storytelling with authenticity, innovation and wit.

For further information on the artists and the works, please contact:
press@amesyavuz.com

All images are copyright protected © 2026 Ames Yavuz

PRESS RELEASE

SINGAPORE 9 Lock Road #02-23 Singapore 108937 +65 6734 3262
SYDNEY | GADIGAL 114 Commonwealth Street, NSW 2010 Australia +61 (2) 8040 8838
LONDON 31 Grosvenor Hill, London, W1K 3QU, United Kingdom
www.amesyavuz.com

AMES YAVUZ