

Press Release

Nicolas Party. Clotho

Hauser & Wirth London
14 October – 20 December 2025

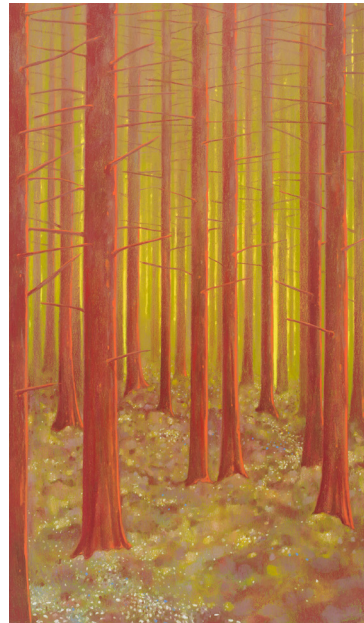


The universe of Swiss painter Nicolas Party comes alive in his first solo exhibition at Hauser & Wirth in London. Featuring new treescapes and portraits in pastel, this exhibition celebrates and challenges longstanding and cherished conventions of representational painting through Party's signature style. The portraits in the exhibition, inspired by two sculptural works by Camille Claudel and Auguste Rodin, serve as a conceptual springboard to also frame the group of treescapes on view. Party utilizes the symbolism and mythological references present in these sculptures to confront the inevitability of aging and death, two themes that have long been central to his artistic exploration. Known for his unique use of soft pastel, the artist has become a master of the medium, employing the pigment's versatility, immediacy and saturated color.

Party is known for conceiving his exhibitions as comprehensive environments, incorporating architectural interventions and extending the palette of his paintings across the gallery's walls. Heightening the powerful formal and psychological effects of his subject matter, he has chosen to steep the surrounding walls in a rich electric blue for this exhibition, punctuated by arches that lead the viewer through each space and frame the view of a work featuring a waterfall.

In conjunction with his exhibition at Hauser & Wirth London, Nicolas Party will curate a section of the booth at Frieze Masters, selecting a small number 19th and 20th-century paintings. These include works by celebrated Swiss painters Arnold Böcklin, Hans Emmenegger, Ferdinand Hodler and Félix Vallotton—artists who have become points of reference in Party's own work.

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About the exhibition

Situated in dialogue with the treescapes, 'Portrait with Camille' (2025) draws inspiration from Camille Claudel's sculptural work entitled 'Clotho' (1893), the namesake of this exhibition. The sculpture depicts the figure from Greek mythology Clotho, one of the three fates who was known to spin the thread of human life. Party's portrait echoes the haunting representation of time's passage, its gnarled form capturing the ravages of age and the weight of mortality. Party's second portrait, entitled 'Portrait with Auguste' (2025), references a sculpture by Auguste Rodin entitled 'She Who Was the Helmet Maker's Once-Beautiful Wife' (1885 – 1887). Rodin's bronze is another powerful meditation on aging and physical decline, and acts as a counterpart to Claudel's 'Clotho,' creating a layered dialogue between two artists whose lives and work were intimately intertwined.

Within each painted portrait, Party introduces a central figure: an image of perfect, youthful stillness. These figures, devoid of motion or emotion, appear almost frozen in time. Their presence offers a stark contrast to the weathered, timeworn forms of the sculptures surrounding them. Suspended in an eternal moment of idealized youth, they challenge the temporality embodied by the sculptural references.

Party will also display a series of pastel works focused on the depiction of trees, a subject that has been a recurring motif throughout the artist's practice. The transition from the portraits to the treescapes invites the viewer to reflect on continuity and change, anchoring the symbolic weight of the earlier works within a broader meditation on natural cycles and temporal rhythm.

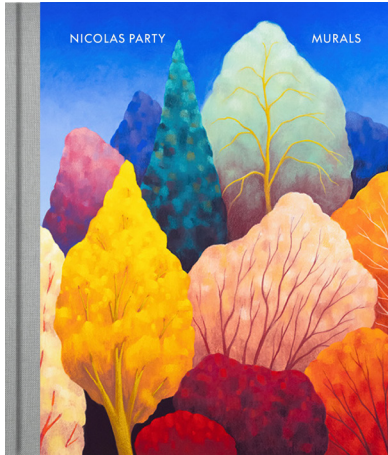
Trees have long served as powerful symbols across cultures, representing both life and permanence, as well as the visible passage of time. Their cyclical transformation through the seasons offers a natural metaphor for change, mortality and renewal. Each pastel depicts a different condition of a treescape—some are lush, green and vibrant, evoking the fullness of spring or summer, while others portray bare, leafless trees that suggest the starkness of winter. In these latter works, the exposed branches resemble skeletal forms, subtly echoing the structure of bones and evoking a quiet reflection on dormancy and fragility.

In this series of treescapes, only one pastel includes an additional element, a waterfall cascading through the landscape. Its presence interrupts the otherwise still forest scene, introducing motion and symbolic weight. The waterfall, a universal emblem of the unstoppable flow of time and life's constant transformation, serves as a connective thread, tying together several of the show's overarching themes: impermanence, renewal and the transition from stillness to movement. In contrast to the quiet, rooted nature of trees, the waterfall acts as a rupture, a reminder that change is inevitable and that even the most grounded forms are shaped by time's current.

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'Nicolas Party: Copper & Dust' is on view at The Holburne Museum in Bath until 31 August 2025, accompanied by a large site-specific pastel mural responding to a work from the museum's collection, on display until 19 October 2025.

Hauser & Wirth Publishers



Nicolas Party: Murals

English
Paperback
33 x 28 cm; 312pp
£72.00 / \$85.00 / €80.00
16 October 2025 (UK & ROW); 9 December 2025 (US)
Text by Jamilee Lacy and Nicolas Party

The first instalment of the new Contemporary Masters series—a set of monographs spotlighting some of the most influential artists of recent years—focuses on the mural work of celebrated Swiss painter Nicolas Party. His oeuvre ranges from the intimate to the gigantic, spanning from paintings, sculptures, and pietra dura, to the installations and public murals that are this monograph's focus. Often commissioned in the context of institutional exhibitions, Party's mural works are usually removed when the associated show comes to a close. The extensive documentation featured in the book offers a way of revisiting and experience these ephemeral works anew, with newly written texts by the artist about each mural providing intimate access to the thinking that goes into his brightly hued, uncanny universe of fantastical landscapes, characters, and motifs.

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Gallery hours:

Tuesday to Saturday
10 am – 6 pm

www.hauserwirth.com

Caption and courtesy:

Nicolas Party
Portrait with Auguste
2025
Soft pastel on linen
Arch: 150 x 110 cm / 59 x 43 1/4 in
© Nicolas Party
Courtesy the artist & Hauser & Wirth
Photo: Adam Reich

Nicolas Party
Trees
2025
Soft pastel on linen
177.6 x 89.1 cm / 69 7/8 x 35 1/8 in
© Nicolas Party
Courtesy the artist & Hauser & Wirth
Photo: Adam Reich

Nicolas Party
Trees
2025
Soft pastel on linen
135 x 150.1 cm / 53 1/8 x 59 1/8 in
© Nicolas Party
Courtesy the artist & Hauser & Wirth
Photo: Adam Reich

Nicolas Party
Trees
2025
Soft pastel on linen
253.7 x 147.4 cm / 99 7/8 x 58 in
© Nicolas Party
Courtesy the artist & Hauser & Wirth
Photo: Adam Reich

Cover of 'Nicolas Party: Murals'
Courtesy Hauser & Wirth Publishers