

Press Release

Catherine Goodman. The Colour of a Quiet Mind...

Hauser & Wirth Zurich, Limmatstrasse
24 September – 19 December 2026



For more than four decades, Catherine Goodman CBE has developed a unique visual language that communicates a powerful visionary response to her lived experience and memory. In an exhibition of new paintings at Hauser & Wirth Zurich, Limmatstrasse, Goodman's intensely expressive process uses strongly pigmented oil paint, brushwork, oil sticks, drips and washes to create immersive abstract works. At the heart of this new body of work lies an exploration of a paradox: how painting can hold both quietness and turbulence. Created during a period marked by profound personal loss and illness, as well as a wider backdrop of war and political instability, the paintings reflect Goodman's search for enduring, memorable images that acknowledge the fragility of the world while remaining open to joy, kindness and renewal.

Long associated with figurative painting, Goodman has in recent years embraced abstraction as a way of exploring memory, perception and experience. Her paintings emerge from a wellspring of resources: fragments of conversation, fleeting observations, landscapes, changing seasons and a broad spectrum of artistic and cultural influences across art history, film and music. References to birds, horses, portraits and landscapes surface throughout the exhibition, moving between the emotional terrain of the artist's childhood and the realities of the present moment. Central to the exhibition is the new large-scale diptych 'Jokerman' (2026) named after the artist's favourite Bob Dylan's song of the same title, an omnipresent and disruptive presence that emerges against quieter themes. The Jokerman embodies the unpredictability that Goodman has encountered both in life and in the studio, while the works affirm painting as a means of navigating uncertainty and finding moments of stillness within upheaval.

Poetry has long played a vital role in Goodman's creative process. The artist often begins each day by reading a poem, describing poetry as a 'visual portal' that opens the imagination and allows her to encounter a subject afresh: '[Rainer Maria] Rilke takes me into the landscape I am working from as though I were seeing it for the first time.' Two paintings, 'Say to the Silent Earth: I Flow' (2026) and 'To the Rushing Water, Speak: I Am' (2026) take their titles from the concluding lines of Rilke's poem 'Let This Darkness Be a Bell Tower,' a meditation on transforming suffering into resilience and meaning. A further suite of four paintings draws upon the writings of the 13th-century Dominican theologian and philosopher Meister Eckhart, whose reflections on mystical simplicity have long been a touchstone for the artist.

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Through abstraction Goodman reflects a growing interest in uncertainty. As she explains, 'Abstraction allows me to explore more freely and intuitively without having to come back to an image that needs to be recognisable. It's how we interact with the world, with our interior and exterior lives, and how memory affects perception.' 'The Colour of a Quiet Mind...' reveals an artist continually expanding the possibilities of what a painting can hold and the paradoxes within: memory and presence, disorder and calm, vulnerability and hope. Ahead of the artist's Zurich show this autumn, Goodman's exhibition 'In the House of Tapestries' at Boughton House, UK, is on view from 1 August until 2 September 2026.

About the artist

Catherine Goodman studied at Camberwell School of Arts & Crafts, London, and the Royal Academy Schools, London, where she won the Royal Academy Gold Medal in 1987. Goodman's role as an educator is integral to her artistic identity. Since graduating from art school, Goodman has been organising drawing classes for the homeless and other community groups, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to social justice in art education. In 2000, this led her to co-establish the Royal Drawing School with HM King Charles III, to address the increasing absence of drawing in art education and to give wider access to disadvantaged students.

Goodman continues in her role as Founding Artistic Director and Academic Board Member of the Royal Drawing School and in 2014 was awarded Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order, for her services to arts education. Since 2019, Goodman has served as the Artist Trustee at The National Gallery, London. In 2024, she was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her services to art.

Her paintings are held in significant private and public collections including Female Artists of the Mougins Museum, France; The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK; The Green Family Art Foundation, Texas, USA; The National Portrait Gallery, London, UK; The Olivia Foundation, Mexico City, Mexico; The Rothschild Foundation, Waddesdon, UK; The Royal Collection Trust, London, UK.

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Opening hours:

Tue – Fri, 11 am – 6pm
Sat, 11 am – 5 pm

www.hauserwirth.com

Caption and courtesy information:

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Catherine Goodman
Jokerman
2026
Oil on linen
2 parts, each: 240 x 200 cm / 94 1/2 x 78 3/4 in
Overall: 240 x 400 cm / 94 1/2 x 157 1/2 in

Catherine Goodman
One Eye
2026
Oil on linen
220 x 200 x 3 cm / 86 5/8 x 78 3/4 x 1 1/8 in

Catherine Goodman
One Seeing
2026
Oil on linen
220 x 200 x 3 cm / 86 5/8 x 78 3/4 x 1 1/8 in