

Window Shopping (summer break)

Tanja Selzer – Rosé Adventure

Gathering: Thursday, August 14, 2025, 7–9:30 p.m.

Visits by appointment only: August 19–23 & 26–28, 2025

The lightness of being

Semjon Contemporary's summer break will offer a special visual treat for art lovers, passers-by, and residents of Schröderstraße in Berlin-Mitte.

In keeping with the season—and even better with the *laissez-faire* period when the pace of everyday life is more in tune with the temperatures, allowing us to experience a different, more leisurely routine—a large, vegetal, summery oil painting by Tanja Selzer will be on display on the gallery's main wall.

The artist's painting seems to flow from her hand as coolly and casually as we move in the heat. At first glance, one recognizes a fleeting, almost sketch-like summer plant landscape, in the center of which stands the *impatiens* (also known as Himalayan balsam) with its orchid-like flowers, which, as an immigrant synanthropic species, likes to spread near water or in marshy terrain and brings the diversity of vegetation to a standstill.

But appearances can be deceiving. Tanja Selzer's great artistry lies precisely in her painting style, which appears light and ephemeral—yet succinct—and is in fact meticulously crafted. The seemingly sketch-like speed is actually not feasible on such a large format of 195 x 395 cm in the same way as a sketch hastily thrown down on a sheet of paper. And yet the brush swirls and breathes life into the subject and its details everywhere. Passages in the painting remain as hints, rendered impressionistically, skillfully and affordably, one could also say structurally abstract, and the essentials of the picture, such as the *impatiens* and the branches of the bushes behind them, are more precisely defined, and yet their contours dissolve as one approaches, because a stroke is rarely a stroke, but rather a bundle of narrow passages of color that connect to form a line when viewed from a distance.

The apparent lightness of the brushstrokes, which makes the canvas a complicit participant in the creation of the image (or so one might think, because it is not “dead-painted”), has an elegance and freshness that was already evident last year in the personalized paintings (e.g., *Daphne*) in the pleasure-oriented summer group exhibition *sex sells...* at the gallery.

And when the young man approaches his female counterpart, her enticing mouth ready for a kiss, the magic of the moment, the fleetingness and lightness of being, becomes evident in a different way.

Semjon H. N. Semjon, July 2025