
ALLY COTTON
GENTLE GIANTS

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Smooth, curvilinear planes and warm tones suffuse Ally Cotton's paintings in Gentle Giants, a solo presentation of works on view through December 12 at VillageOneArt. Provocative yet ambivalent, elements in Cotton's works merge figuration with abstraction, implying the presence of the feminine body without overly emphasizing figuration in these compositions. Cotton creates sumptuous yet unsettling tableaux of imagery evincing an adroit approach to capturing light and line in her artistic practice. Curves and layers seem to hover, extending outward from the picture plane to entice the viewer to imagine these surrealistic visions as part of their inner world. The artist's incredible brushwork seems to dissolve surfaces in order to create unified, undulating surfaces able to approximate dreamworlds, natural environments and even fast food.

Among her many talents as a painter, the artist is able to create gradients in her compositions that seemingly defy gravity. Assimilating line into the three-dimensional depths of her paintings with aplomb, the artist is able to keenly evoke emotional impact. Adapting her use of gradient and color, and indicating a remarkable ability to apprehend linework's influence on compositional impact, the artist builds on the artistic dexterity of 20th-century masters of color and line such as Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse. The artist is able to expertly apply her arts training toward today's doomscroll aesthetics, presenting a subversive yet keenly contemporary lens in her practice that singularly defines it within the contemporary arts landscape. Her ability to transcend representational and abstract painting styles speaks to her skillful qualities as a painter and emerging contemporary artist working at the forefront of the New York City painting scene today.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ally Cotton is a painter originally from Alexandria, who lives and works in New York City. Her work explores the overlap between figuration and abstraction. She presents surreal compositions that appear both enticing and unsettling. Cotton holds a BFA in Fine and Studio Arts from the University of Texas at Austin and an MFA from the New York Academy of Art. She was an artist-in-residence in Hayama, Japan; at Kylemore Abbey Notre Dame, Ireland; and at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, Florida. Her works have been exhibited in solo and group shows at Forum Gallery, Sotheby's, and the New York Academy of Art, among others.



WHITEWATER

2024 · Oil on canvas · 36 x 36 in.



HOOTERS

2024 · Oil on linen · 30 x 25 in.



BATTERING RAM

2025 · Oil on linen · 48 x 30 in.



ROLLS

2026 · Oil on canvas · 22 x 28 in.



DOUGH

2026 · Oil on canvas · 22 x 28 in.



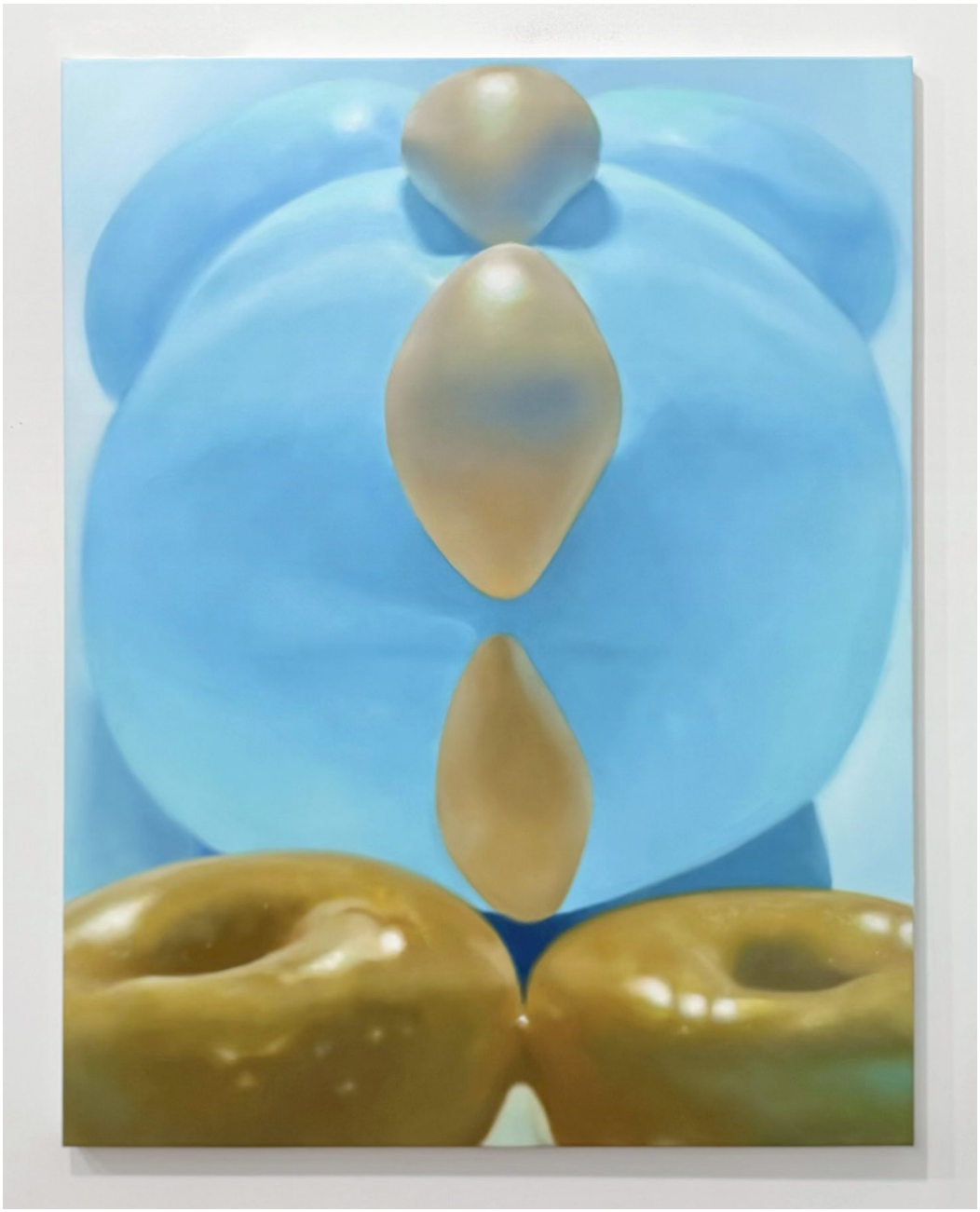
CONNOISSEUR

2026 · Oil on canvas · 11 x 14 in.



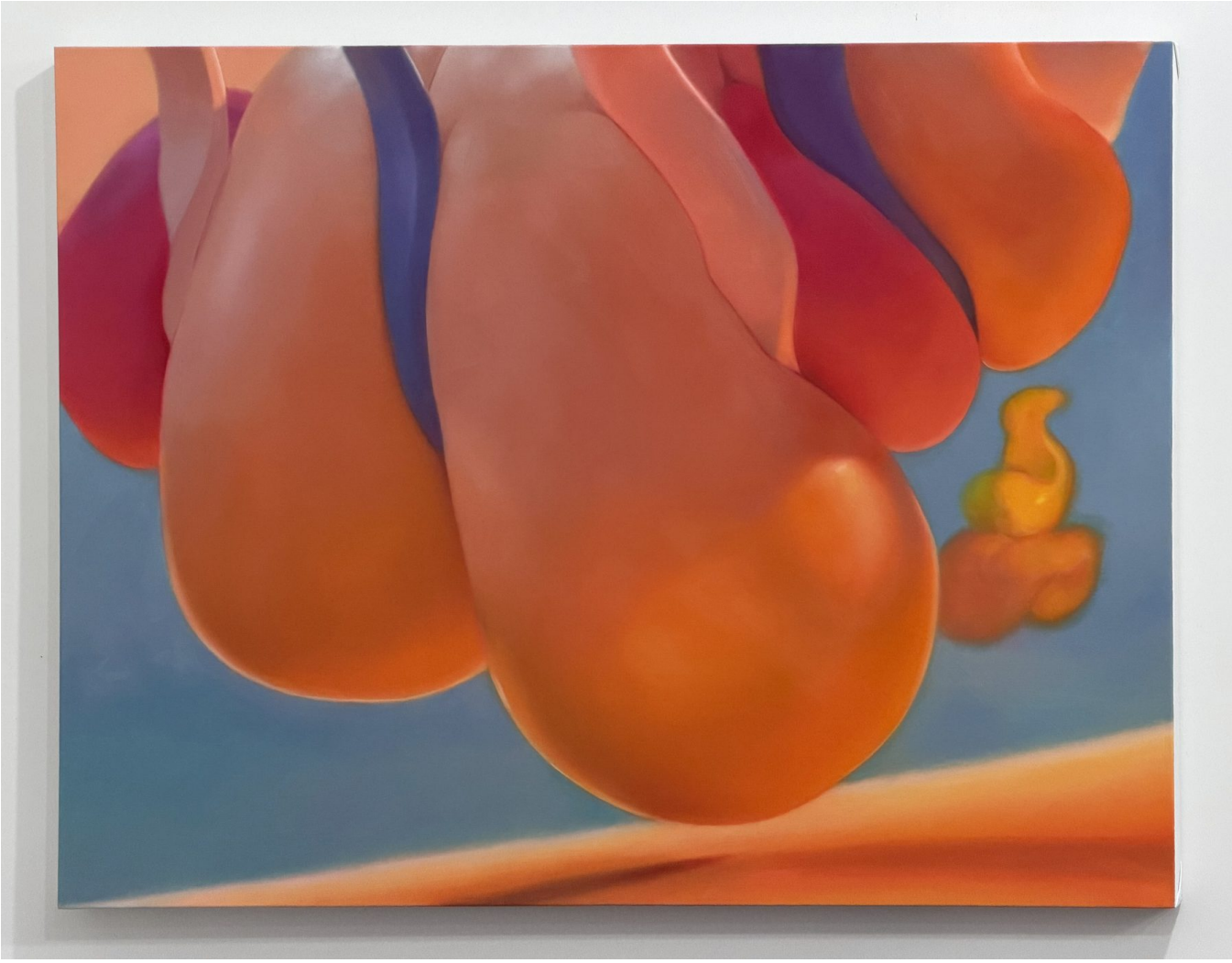
DRIVE-THRU

2026 · Oil on canvas · 48 x 36 in.



BREAK ROOM

2026 · Oil on canvas · 46 x 36 in.



POOL CHAIR

2026 · Oil on canvas · 30 x 40 in.



GRIEF PILE

2026 · Oil on linen · 14 x 18 in.



MAKING A WHOPPER JR.

2026 · Oil on linen · 14 x 11 in.



PRESSED

2025 · Oil on shellacked paper · 15 x 10.5 in.



ANGEL BABY

2026 · Oil on shellacked paper · 12 x 12.5 in.



LOUISA

2024 · Oil on canvas · 20 x 16 in.



IN WARM CLOTHES AGAIN

2024 · Oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.

Ally Cotton

GENTLE GIANTS

October 29 - December 12, 2026

Published on the occasion of the exhibition
Gentle Giants by Ally Cotton
October 29 - December 12, 2026

VillageOneArt
150 W 25th St, #403, New York, NY 10001
info@villageoneart.com
villageoneart.com

All works © Ally Cotton, 2026. All rights reserved.
Catalogue © VillageOneArt, 2026.
Reproduction without written permission prohibited.

VILLAGEONEART
NEW YORK CITY