

MAYA FRODEMAN GALLERY



David Abbott: *Ships in the Forest*

11 June – 26 July 2026

Artist reception: Thursday, June 11th from 5 to 8pm. Abbott will be in attendance. All are welcome to attend.

66 South Glenwood Street Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Maya Frodeman Gallery is pleased to present *Ships in the Forest*, an exhibition of paintings by David Abbott. The exhibition brings together a body of work shaped by sustained attention to the contemporary landscape — its beauty, its ambivalence, and its quiet instability. Created following the artist's receipt of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant, the exhibition marks a significant development in Abbott's practice, introducing a new body of large-scale works.

The exhibition takes its title from a centuries-old folk song, reflecting Abbott's longstanding interest in folk music as a carrier of collective memory and human experience. Inspired in part by a walk along The Ridgeway — one of Britain's oldest pathways — the paintings emerge from the artist's confrontation with a rapidly changing landscape shaped by industrial development, expanding infrastructure, and visible environmental pressure.

Where Abbott's earlier works might have dissolved place into memory and dreamlike association, the paintings in *Ships in the Forest* confront landscape as something possessing its own force and autonomy. Richer color, bolder compositions, and a heightened physicality characterize the works, embracing uncertainty and process rather than fixed ideas or narrative. For Abbott, the landscape is no longer simply a vessel for personal projection, but something with its own force, history, and voice.

Though rooted in specific locations across southern England, the paintings resist straightforward depiction. Working primarily from photographs and extended encounters with place, Abbott searches for what the Welsh word *hiraeth* describes: a longing for something lost, or perhaps never possessed at all. In *Ships in the Forest*, Abbott's paintings quietly acknowledge the fragility of the natural world and the mounting pressures placed upon it, while remaining deeply attentive to moments of wonder, mystery, and renewal.

David Abbott was born in 1981 and grew up in Hertfordshire, UK, before moving to Virginia as a teenager, where he attended high school and university. He received his BA in Fine Art from James Madison University in 2004. He then returned to the UK and received his MA in Multidisciplinary Printmaking at the University of the West of England in 2007. Abbott worked as a graphic designer until 2021 when he took up painting full-time. He has shown widely in the UK, Europe, and North America. Today, Abbott lives and works in Bristol, UK.

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David Abbott, *In My Father's Garden*, 2026, Acrylic on canvas, 39 ½ x 63 inches



David Abbott, *Bells of Paradise*, 2025, Oil on canvas, 39 ½ x 63 inches



David Abbott, *Light the Way*, 2025, Oil on panel, 34 ¾ x 22 inches

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David Abbott, *The Time Passes Over*, 2026, Oil on panel, 6 x 8 inches

Specializing in modern and contemporary art, Maya Frodeman Gallery unites artists from all over the world in a tightly curated vision. Maya Frodeman Gallery began in 2024, continuing the 23-year legacy of Tayloe Piggott's eponymous gallery, the first of its kind in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. In an expansive exhibition space in downtown Jackson Hole, the gallery pursues a rigorous schedule of exhibitions representing both emerging and established artists, encompassing unique practices of painting, sculpture, paper, photography, and printmaking.

Exhibiting contemporary giants such as Richard Fleischner, Jane Rosen, Rakuko Naito, Nicola Hicks, and Caio Fonseca alongside emerging stars like Jane Yang D'Haene and Kathryn Lynch, Maya Frodeman Gallery supports its extensive contemporary roster with close relationships with the estates of Wolf Kahn, Emily Mason, Hans Hofmann, and Esteban Vicente.

From first-time buyers to seasoned collectors, the gallery assists a wide range of clients with the intricacies of collecting contemporary art. Our staff has the knowledge and expertise to facilitate art acquisitions, advise collection management, and curate the interiors of private spaces.

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