

YOYO LANDER

Burdened by Blessings

17 November 2025 – 17 January 2026



YoYo Lander, *Sweet and Rye*, 2025, Stained, washed and collaged watercolor paper on canvas
Framed: 64 x 43.5 x 5 cm (25 1/4 x 17 1/8 x 2 in) (YOL-033)

Zidoun-Bossuyt Luxembourg presents *Burdened by Blessings*, the first solo exhibition of YoYo Lander with the gallery, from 17 November 2025 to 17 January 2026.

For the first time, YoYo Lander has created works on canvas, expanding her practice while maintaining her intuitive process - using layered, hand-dyed watercolor paper - and culminating in vibrant, textural collages that celebrate the beauty, strength, and vulnerability of her portraits.

Burdened by Blessings is a series of portraits that explore the delicate balance between gratitude and the weight of living. Continuing her ongoing practice of recording people in their most vulnerable, unguarded moments, Lander seeks to reveal the quiet beauty within emotional complexity—the tender spaces where joy and struggle coexist.

Each portrait, including works such as *This Can't Be It*, *Lukewarm*, *Sweet and Rye*, and *I'll Never Not Like Dandelions* (the yellow ones), tells a story of endurance, reflection, and the human need to find meaning in both the gifts and the burdens we carry. The exhibition's title speaks to the paradox of being fortunate—how even blessings can feel heavy, and how beauty often emerges in that tension. Ultimately, *Burdened by Blessings* invites viewers to sit with their own contradictions—to see that vulnerability is not weakness, but evidence of life fully felt.

« My art explores the essence of humanity. My passion is to use body language as an introduction to the context. Choosing my subjects is very intuitive. I go with what I feel. I take several photographs of my subjects; then, I combine them to express a definitive image through individually stained pieces of watercolor paper. When the work is complete, one will find a sense of truth, perhaps a moment that you've seen or experienced. My aesthetic is visceral and expressive. What begins with a strictly defined intent, composition, and color scheme is rarely visible in the finished piece. Layers of cut and stained watercolor paper are strategically placed over rough sketches. This is a shift in my artistic approach, in which the context now plays a significant role in the depiction of the individual(s). » YoYo Lander's arresting collages celebrate the beauty, strength, and vulnerability of her Black subjects. Lander highlights intricacies of bodies and movement and compellingly captures the demeanor of her subjects. She takes several photographs of each of her sitters to use as reference material, then combines those perspectives into singular compositions by layering cut pieces of dyed watercolor paper on top of canvas, resulting in textural, multihued bodyscapes.

BIOGRAPHY

YoYo Lander was born in Sumter, SC. She is an autodidact painter living and working in Los Angeles, CA. Her work has been exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, Stockholm, and Atlanta. Lander has also received numerous commissions, including ones for Beth Rudin DeWoody's Bunker Art Space; Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Los Angeles; and Kamala Harris's Washington, D.C. office in 2017. She is part of many collections including The Petrucci Family Foundation – collection of African-American Art; Up Next Art Museum collection; Hill Harper Art Foundation; The Museum of Fine Art, Houston, TX. She was exposing at Zeitz MOCAA, as part of the group exhibition *When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting*. YoYo Lander was part of the group exhibition *Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage* at the Museum of Fine Art Houston, Houston, TX. YoYo Lander's work is currently exposed at the Liljevalchs konsthall, Stockholm as part of the group exhibition *When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting*, with artists of the calibre of Akinola Lasekan, Kehinde Wiley, Michael Amitage, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Lynette Yiadom-Boaky

and Amy Sherald, conceived and organized by Zeitz MOCAA. The last solo exhibition of YoYo Lander was at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, NC.