

**Wilhelm Neusser: Bogged Down**  
April 11 – May 30, 2026  
1923 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, CA



**Opening Reception with Artist: Saturday, April 11 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM**

Abigail Ogilvy Gallery is pleased to present *Bogged Down*, featuring new work by Boston-based artist Wilhelm Neusser. In his third solo exhibition with our gallery, Neusser presents recent paintings inspired by the cranberry harvest in his home state of Massachusetts. The subject, which the artist has explored since 2018, skillfully merges close observations of regional agriculture and art historical references from 19<sup>th</sup> century realist painting to express the anxious, uncertain tenor of our current moment.

Cranberries are one of the few fruits native to North America and the fall harvest of the crimson-colored berries is an agricultural spectacle. While for centuries cranberries were picked by hand, since the 1960s farmers have used more efficient, large-scale wet harvesting. With this method, cranberry bogs are flooded with water, causing the berries—which contain air pockets—to float. A "beater" machine separates the fruit, which is then corralled by floating barriers or booms, equipment similar to that used for oil spill containment. The paintings in *Bogged Down* depict this autumnal phenomenon, while laying bare the varied processes of their own making: expressive yet controlled brush marks, thick smudges from the palette knife, and sprinkled paint in various hues of red to create the signature hue of the cranberries.

Neusser's richly textured surfaces draw on the tradition of 19th-century European painting that elevated mundane, backbreaking farm work to the subject of fine art. Artists like Jean-François Millet and Jules Breton, for example, portrayed laborers in muted tones, highlighting issues of poverty and structural hardship. In *Bogged Down*, anonymous figures wade knee-deep in berries. Some rake or corral the floating crops – hard work carried out for centuries

predominantly by labor migrants. Other figures move awkwardly and inexplicably as if in a dream, their bodies and the surrounding landscape lit by crisp afternoon sun or misty twilight. While some paintings suggest a mystical atmosphere, others verge on environmental disaster. Figures are “bogged down” in fields of swirling color, destination unknown.

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**Wilhelm Neusser** is a painter whose atmospheric landscapes draw on the legacy of German Romanticism while reframing its ideals through the lens of 21st-century environmental precarity. His work explores how land continues to register the sublime - not as heroic grandeur, but as a fragile, shifting presence shaped by ecological uncertainty and perceptual complexity. Depicting verdant hills, craggy peaks, or luminous skies, Neusser’s paintings are based on observation, memory, and imagination instigating reflection on how beauty, landscape, and time interweave in an era of environmental change. The human figure appears as stand-in for our own experience of nature as both, vulnerable resource and treacherous terrain.

Born in Cologne, Germany, Neusser studied at Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe and at the Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe. Neusser resided in Cologne until his relocation to the United States in 2011 and now lives and works in Somerville, MA. His work is represented through Abigail Ogilvy Gallery in Los Angeles, and he teaches at Boston University’s College of Fine Arts.

Neusser’s artwork has been widely exhibited, and he has received many awards and fellowships. In addition to numerous gallery exhibitions, his work was included in the following institutional exhibitions: *Space as Narrative*, Concord Art Center, Concord, MA, 2017, *Elsewhere*, Goethe-Institut, Boston, MA, 2017, *The Lure of the Dark*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA, 2018, *Pastoral Present*, Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, MA, 2019, *Field Visions*, Stone Gallery, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2022. In 2020 and 2022 Neusser was honored with a finalist grant in painting from the Mass Cultural Council. Additional awards and recognition include the MASS MoCA Studio Program (2017) and the Vermont Studio Center (2013 and 2015). Neusser’s work has been included in notable publications, including *The Boston Globe*, *Boston Magazine*, *Artscope Magazine*, *Boston.com*, and *Big Red & Shiny*.

Website: <https://www.abigailogilvy.com>

Location: 1923 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Hours: Thursday–Saturday: 11 a.m.–6 p.m. and by appointment

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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