

Gold

Vera Klimentyeva & Issy Tennant

13 October – 13 November 2026



Vera Klimentyeva, *Beyond Divine series*, 2026,
Egg tempera and 23,75 kt gold leaf on icon board.

Lyndsey Ingram is delighted to present *Gold*, an exhibition of new work by artists Vera Klimentyeva and Issy Tennant. Gilding is intrinsic to the practice of both artists, who explore the enduring allure of gold through distinct yet complementary approaches. Employing this ancient technique, their work reflects on the material's rich history while considering its place within a contemporary context. Across the exhibition, gold becomes both material and subject, connecting histories of craft while considering its capacity to embellish, illuminate and alter the perception of an object or image.

Using egg tempera and gold leaf on panel, Vera Klimentyeva's paintings transform historical iconography into contemporary abstraction. Drawing from medieval manuscripts, sacred symbols and traditional techniques, Klimentyeva explores a well-established aesthetic with exquisite precision. Crucially, her engagement with the tradition of Russian Orthodox icon painting is central to her practice. While Klimentyeva's works dispense with figuration, they retain and reinterpret the visual language of Orthodox icons, including haloes, circles, horizons and geometric divisions, reframing these sacred references into ambiguous yet celestial compositions. Throughout her practice, Klimentyeva often uses a controlled palette of red, blue, green and white, colours that carry distinct symbolic and spiritual meanings within Orthodox iconography. Far from being purely decorative, these hues contribute to the works' layered visual and devotional language. It is the gold leaf, however, that draws the eye inward, with its seductive shimmer providing a captivating luminosity.

Through her *Vacuity and Substance* series, Klimentyeva focuses more acutely on the materiality and complexity of gold. In this group of paintings, the panels are almost entirely enveloped in luminous gilding, heightening the medium's inherent duality as both richly material and seemingly empty. Within these works, Klimentyeva draws attention to the surface itself, allowing the medium to become an active element of the image: reflecting light, commanding attention and inviting contemplation.

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Issy Tennant, *Hawthorn I*, 2026, Hawthorn, oil gilded with 23.5ct gold leaf.

Equally intrigued by our enduring cultural fascination with gold, artist Issy Tennant presents a series of new gilded sculptures and wall panels. Tennant was immediately drawn to the technique of water gilding after learning the traditional process at City & Guilds Art School. Captivated by the rich history of the craft and the complexity of the medium, she continues to explore its possibilities and challenges throughout her current practice. Surrounded by nature at her home in the Scottish Borders, Tennant draws constant inspiration from the forms, textures and colours of the natural world. Through her depictions of branches, insects and flowers, she distils the fleeting beauty of nature into shimmering gold, inviting the viewer to reconsider it as something precious, resilient and worthy of reverence.

Tennant continues to explore the experimental potential of gilding, applying it to a range of materials to create works that sit somewhere between the natural and the decorative. Using sheets of linen, delicate sycamore branches, rose stems and other found materials, Tennant transforms the familiar into luminous and enduring objects. Although the earliest examples of water gilding date back to Ancient Egypt, Tennant remains fascinated by the unpredictability of the process, never quite knowing how the gold will settle or what final form the work will take.

Across the exhibition, Klimentyeva and Tennant reveal the enduring versatility of gold, each using the material to reimagine the familiar as something otherworldly. Together, both artists celebrate not only gold's beauty and historical significance but also its captivating ability to alter perception and imbue the ordinary with a sense of wonder.

Vera Klimentyeva (b.1988)

Vera Klimentyeva studied at Moscow State University of Printing Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna. Her practice explores themes of identity, overidentification, religion, social roles, deconstruction and transformation. Working across fine art and graphic design, Klimentyeva employs a diverse range of media and techniques, including printmaking, painting, photography and digital collage. Her works bring these varied approaches together to investigate how personal and collective identities are shaped, challenged and transformed.

Issy Tennant (b. 1964)

Issy Tennant studied Decorative Arts at City & Guilds Art School. Drawing inspiration from the natural world, she creates works using traditional techniques including water gilding and bronze casting. Based between the Scottish Borders and Edinburgh, Tennant works closely with a select group of highly skilled artisans, combining time-honoured craftsmanship with a contemporary approach to the natural world.

Vera Klimentyeva & Issy Tennant: *Gold* is open to the public at Lyndsey Ingram, 16 Bourdon Street, London W1K 3PH every Monday to Friday between the 13 October – 13 November 2026 from 10am until 6pm.

For any further information please contact info@lyndseyingram.com or call +44 (0) 207 629 8849.