

HAUSER & WIRTH
INVITE(S) **PATRICK**
SALUTT 13 NOVEMBER – 20 DECEMBER

WITH A
TEXT BY

MATTHEW M. WILLIAMS

IN COLLABORATION
WITH

THE STABLE



Patrick Salutt's studio, © Patrick Salutt.
Courtesy the artist and theStable. Photo: Andra Dumitrascu

A TEXT BY MATTHEW M. WILLIAMS

Patrick Salutt (b. 1992) comes from a lineage of farmers from the alpine Engadin Valley in Switzerland. For generations, his and other local families have cultivated land in high altitude to support their communities and live in harmony with the sublime mountainous nature of their home. The summers are brief and vivid, the winters long, white and harsh.

The societal and economic leaps of the past century have not gone unnoticed in these rural areas, in which tourism has grown significantly, and farmers have been displaced in the name of progress and gains – for the construction of dams, holiday homes and hotels. Confronted with the mechanics of migration and adaptation, families like the Salutts have placed emphasis on community and family. These socio-economic developments and core values are reflected in the lush paintings of Patrick Salutt, whose figures congregate in units, walking across the mountainous plains or standing proudly in front of their farms.

Patrick Salutt's paintings reveal a rural way of life. While the protagonists and landscapes are painted in light strokes and the color palette is luminous – ranging from light pinks to watery blues and lush greens – Salutt does not paint a romanticized picture of his communities. The postures of Salutt's men and women, boys and girls, are simple and real. While many of the protagonists are ageless and rendered without detailed facial attributes, the realism of their lived experience is palpable: in 'Family Portrait IV' (2025) the young boy in the red sweater is probably no more than six years old.

His posture tells the story of early physical labour helping on the family farm: his fists are closed, demonstrating determination and readiness. In ‘Family Portrait II’ (2025), the parents stand strong under a lavender sky, holding their children and goat close in front of their house. In fact, both of these paintings depict families in front of the farms and homes they were forced to leave due to the construction of the Göscheneralp dam which was finalised in 1960. In an exemplary manner, these works tell us that Salutt is inspired by his own memories and the lived experience of his family, as well as photographic and filmic documentation of other communities in the area.

Many of Salutt’s large-scale paintings put emphasis on family and community – only seldomly do lone figures appear. Children and adolescents are a central theme in Salutt’s work, and he has spoken of how children are given responsibility early on, contributing to life on the farm. Echoing this structure in his studio, Salutt sometimes invites children from neighbouring villages to contribute to his paintings, which was the case in ‘Gehilfe’ (2025), for example.

In Salutt’s work, light strokes render the history and reality of the Swiss alpine communities he grew up in. Ritual, labour, community and nature are given tribute in the artist’s unique palette: washes of light pink, lush green, watery lavender and rust red. Sharing his way of life and painting in distinctively personal manner, Salutt uses the medium of painting in its most elemental form: as a record of history and being.



Patrick Salutt, *Susch* (detail), 2023, oil on canvas, 135 × 260 cm / 53 $\frac{1}{8}$ × 102 $\frac{3}{8}$ in
© Patrick Salutt. Courtesy the artist and theStable. Photo: Jonathan Nico

HAUSER & WIRTH INVITE(S)

Hauser & Wirth Invite(s) is a recent initiative to host fellow artists, galleries and writers at our gallery spaces, offering wider visibility of their work and ideas and to engage with Zurich's vibrant creative community. The program reflects our longstanding commitment to building a sense of connection in the places where it works, collaborating with artists, or estates, who may benefit from an additional platform, galleries of different scale and writers addressing new audiences, all in support of a sustainable art ecosystem. By hosting fellow artists, galleries and writers, we offer wider visibility of their work and ideas to engage with each city's vibrant creative community

Organized with Olivier Renaud-Clément, Hauser & Wirth Invite(s) launched in Paris in February 2025. Returning to Zurich for its third iteration in the city, the project will be located on the ground floor of our Limmatstrasse gallery and will complement our exhibitions 'Mary Heilmann. Works on Paper,' on view through 20 December, on the upper floor.

ABOUT PATRICK SALUTT

Born and raised in the Engadin mountains in Switzerland, Patrick Salutt's early life revolved around professional skiing and cow herding. Leaving his Heimat to study arts and architecture, he found himself longing for the brutal, raw poetry of his alpine upbringing.

After a decade in Vienna, Berlin and Paris, he now spends his summers in a wooden open-air barn in the Engadin mountains, painting large scale oil paintings with the tenderness of aquarelles and the physicality of chainsaw sculptures.

Here, time and nature coincide—frozen in alpine traditions, ancestral memories resurface—mute, humbled, violent.



Patrick Salutt in his studio, 2025 © Patrick Salutt.
Courtesy the artist and theStable. Photo: Andra Dumitrascu

ABOUT THE STABLE

Founded in 2021 by Fritz Steinhart, theStable is a contemporary art gallery in Schanf, Engadin. The gallery features three exhibition spaces: a cobblestone-floored stable, a white cube and a decommissioned haybarn. theStable presents two to six exhibitions annually, showcasing both emerging and established artists such as Adrian Schachter, Baldassarre Ruspoli, Gianna Dispenza, Patrick Salutt, Sigve Knutson, Vera Klimentyeva, Yves Scherer, Rudolf Polanszky and Sophie von Hellermann in the gallery as well as at fairs in and out of Switzerland. theStable is committed to staging ambitious exhibitions, introducing artists to the Engadin and Switzerland, and fostering the ongoing development of their practices.

ABOUT MATTHEW M. WILLIAMS

Raised in California, Chicago-born creative director Matthew M. Williams has worked with top talents from the worlds of art, music, photography and fashion throughout his two decade-long career, shaping a refined aesthetic universe grounded in creative purpose, innovation and craftsmanship.



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Hauser & Wirth Zurich
Limmatstrasse 270
8005 Zürich

Gallery hours:
Tuesday to Friday
11 am – 6 pm
Saturday
11 am – 5pm

www.hauserwirth.com

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