

**GOWEN**  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

# WHAT IS REALLY MATTER

Sylvie Lambert

Show Presentation I

March 5 – May 16, 2026 | 2026



This spring, GOWEN is excited to present ***What Is Really Matter***, the first solo exhibition by Canadian-French artist **Sylvie Lambert** (b. 1984, Montréal). Following her participation in several of the gallery's recent group presentations, the show unveils a brand new body of work produced predominantly since 2025.

Marking a decisive evolution in Lambert's artistic practice, the exhibition comprises around eighteen paintings and drawings, executed in oil, acrylic, and coloured pencil, and includes a specially conceived wallpaper installation created from magnolia leaves. Together, these works articulate a sustained reflection on the notion of matter - understood simultaneously as solid substance and as an invisible, spiritual, or energetic force that exceeds material definition.

Central to the exhibition is the idea of cyclical balance and interrelation. Lambert's work reflects how these concepts, present in the seasons, the human body, nature, and life itself create a whole, within which everything is understood as part of a cycle, and where each ending opens into renewal. This balance unfolds across physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions, finding expression in rhythms, where human, natural, and inner realms remain in continuous dialogue.

In her paintings, Lambert constructs matter at the surface of the canvas through the interplay of light, colour, texture and gesture. Pigment becomes substance, and surface becomes a site of encounter between the tangible and the intangible. The act of painting itself is something on which the artist thrives and central to her inquiry, grounding abstraction and imagination within a physical, lived process. Through this approach, she gives form to sensations, energies, and presences that resist direct representation. As she states, "*In the end, I paint what really matters - the living - through life embodied in matter.*"

Sylvie Lambert, *Red tree* (detail), 2025,  
Acrylic on canvas, 150 x 100 cm.  
Courtesy of the Artist and GOWEN. © Claude Cortinavis.

Many of the works are set - as is customary for the artist - within unfamiliar or subtly displaced environments. These imagined spaces destabilise notions of normality and invite viewers into a world where the boundaries between the real and the unreal are deliberately blurred. Lambert combines elements drawn from everyday life with fantastical or incongruous details, creating compositions that oscillate between recognition and estrangement.

Recurring motifs serve as anchors within this shifting terrain. Fungi appear frequently throughout the exhibition, embodying a complex symbolic role. Simultaneously fragile and resilient, they elicit ideas of danger and magic, collapse and revival, rooted in the ground yet capable of sudden re-emergence.

The magnolia leaves used in the wallpaper installation extend these concerns into the exhibition environment itself. Collected after summer, the dried leaves are reassembled into an immersive curtain, these remnants of the natural world, in the hands of Lambert are not fixed in their state of decay but granted a renewed presence. Evoking cycles of material transformation and metamorphosis, the work recalls the myth of the phoenix and reinforces the exhibition's meditation on reassertion or the persistence of matter.

Shaped by her personal journey, Lambert's work unfolds through narratives that are poetic, humorous - often with a subtle sense of second-degree irony - and at times quietly dystopian. While she does not identify as a Native person, the artist's origins in Quebec are accompanied by an intuitive and spiritual trace of her Iroquois Native American heritage. This sensibility, combined with later French and Swiss influences, informs her artistic language and contributes to its layered complexity.

Lambert's thinking is particularly arborescent, branching and associative, a mode of thought perhaps intensified by the imaginative use of the Québécois language. She conceives her canvases as sentence elements, where a shift in context, form, or relation can entirely alter meaning. Attentive to the power of communication in all its forms, Lambert considers words as carriers of history and images as possessing an even greater capacity for universality and intuition.

Rendered in a flamboyant chromatic palette, the artist's imaginary worlds draw inspiration from her everyday milieu, touching on habitat, food, artificial or disfigured nature while extending toward more universal meanings. Within her contemporary compositions, distinctions between décor, reality, fantasy, and fiction intertwine, offering a layered exploration of life, matter, and the strange, magical connections that bind them.

Sylvie Lambert has been represented by GOWEN since 2023.



Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.

Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)

*Resilience*, 2025

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 100 cm

59.1 x 39.4 in

SL46

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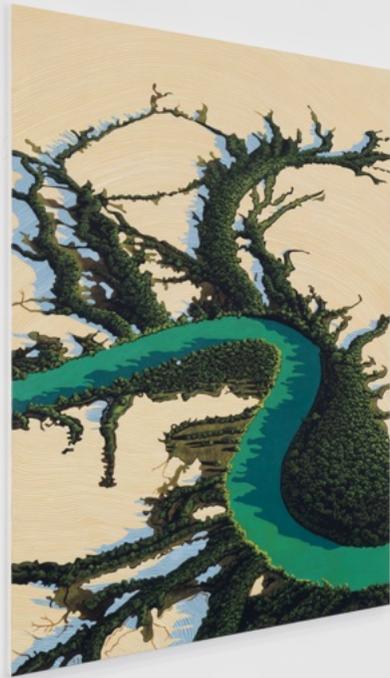
Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Foret primitive*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
SL45

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Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Tree Unity*, 2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 120 cm  
59.1 x 47.2 in  
SL32



**SOLD**



Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.



Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*With the flow*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
SL44

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Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*(H)air*, 2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 120 cm  
59.1 x 47.2 in  
SL17

**SOLD**





Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Ego-Construction*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
120 x 200 cm  
47.2 x 78.7 in  
SL41

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.



Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Petite maison dans la prairie*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
SL43

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.



Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)

*Openmind*, 2021

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm

39.4 x 39.4 in

SL55

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Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Candy Monarde*, 2025  
colored pencils  
30 x 30 cm  
11.8 x 11.8 in  
SL53

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Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Pensée sucrée*, 2025  
colored pencils  
30 x 30 cm  
11.8 x 11.8 in  
SL54

**SOLD**



Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Sweet Intitle*, 2025  
colored pencils  
30 x 30 cm  
11.8 x 11.8 in  
SL55

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.

Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Fragile trio*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
SL47

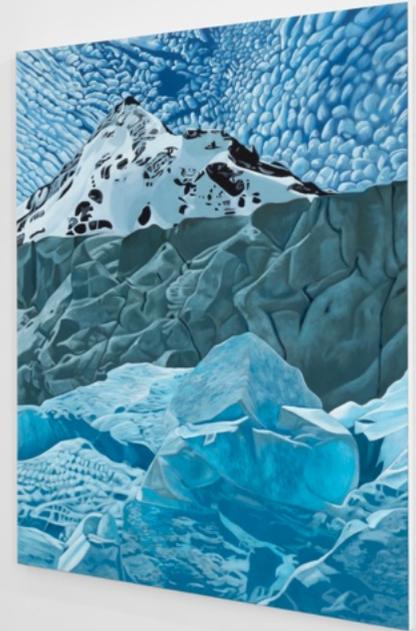
**SOLD**





Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Red'option*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 70 cm  
39.4 x 27.6 in  
SL39

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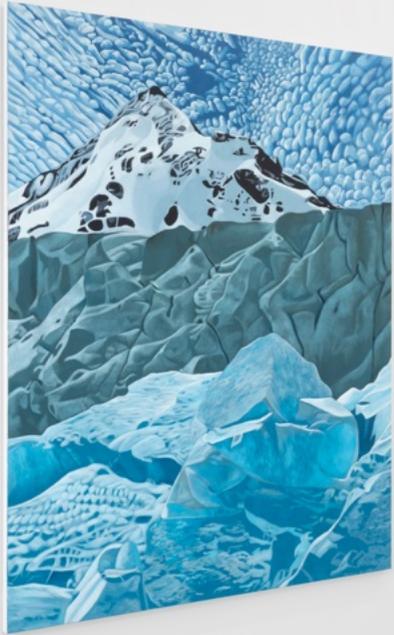


Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.

Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*State of blues*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
SL48

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.



Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)

*Effet de Sert, 2023*

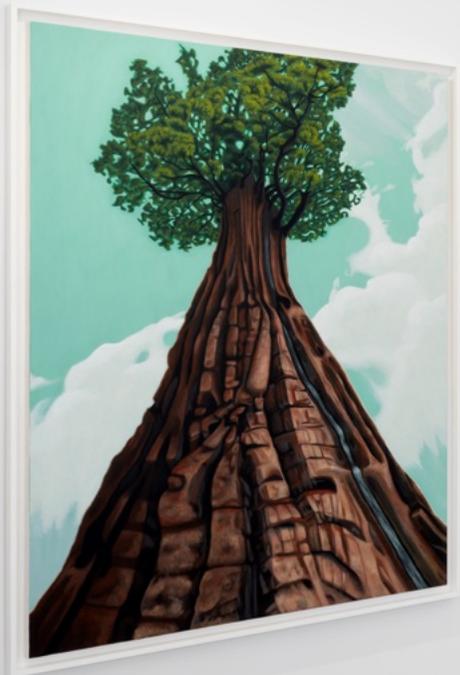
Acrylic on canvas

120 x 150 cm

47.2 x 59.1 in

SL10

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**What Is Really Matter**  
Sylvie Lambert

Monday, May 11, 2026

Sylvie Lambert's *What Is Really Matter* is a multi-layered work that explores the relationship between nature and human-made structures. The painting depicts a tree whose trunk is composed of stacked, textured blocks, suggesting a construction of wood or a man-made structure. The tree's canopy is lush and green, contrasting with the light blue sky and white clouds. The work is a commentary on the impact of human activity on the natural world and the blurred boundaries between nature and the built environment.

**Keywords:**  
Sylvie Lambert, What Is Really Matter, Nature, Human-made structures, Environment, Construction, Wood, Sky, Clouds.





Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Red Tree, 2025*  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
SL37

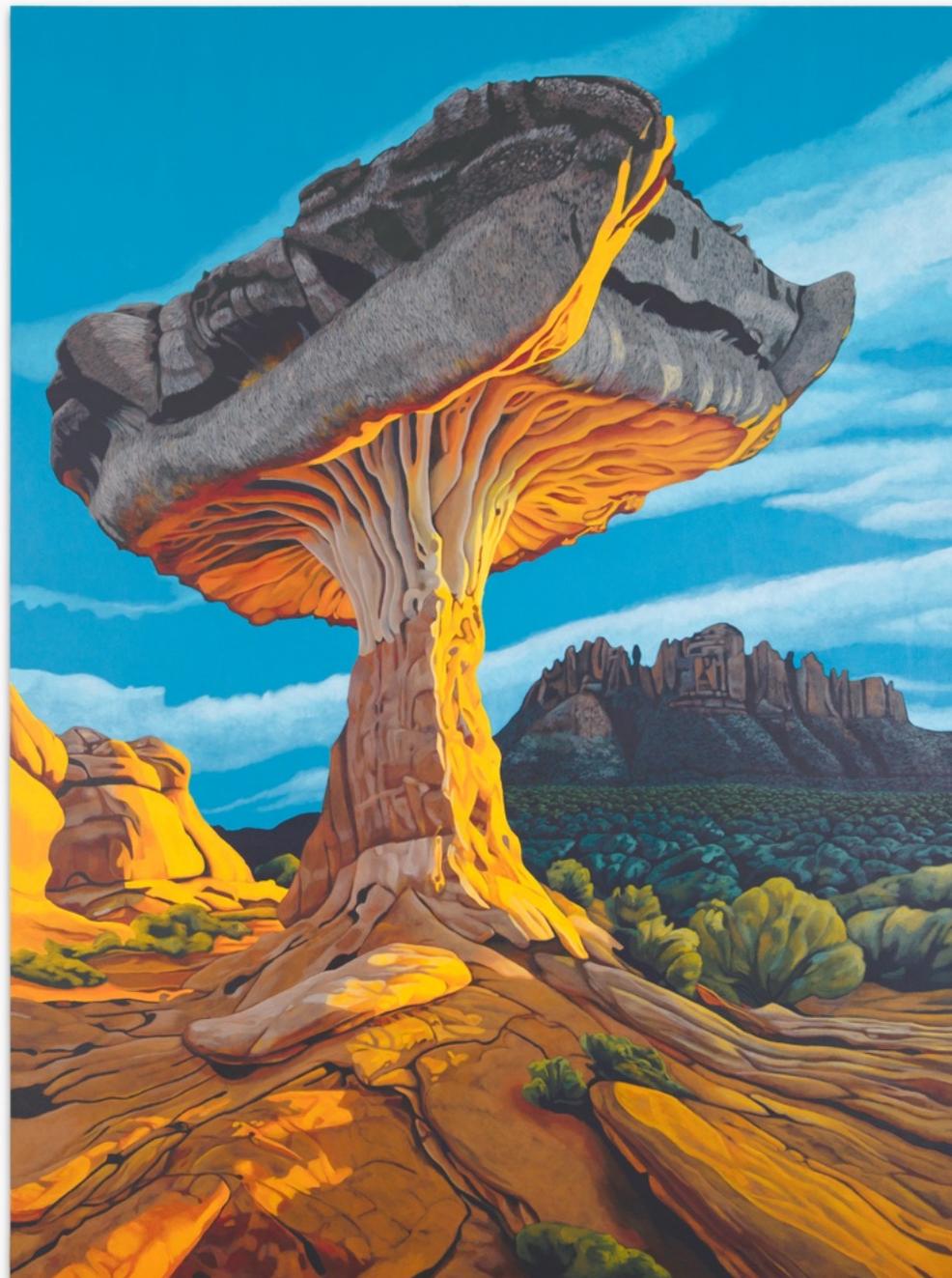
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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.

Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Incandescent*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
200 x 150 cm  
78.7 x 59.1 in  
SL51

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.



Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Cosmic*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
80 x 60 cm  
31.5 x 23.6 in  
SL50

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.



Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)

*Volcanious*, 2025

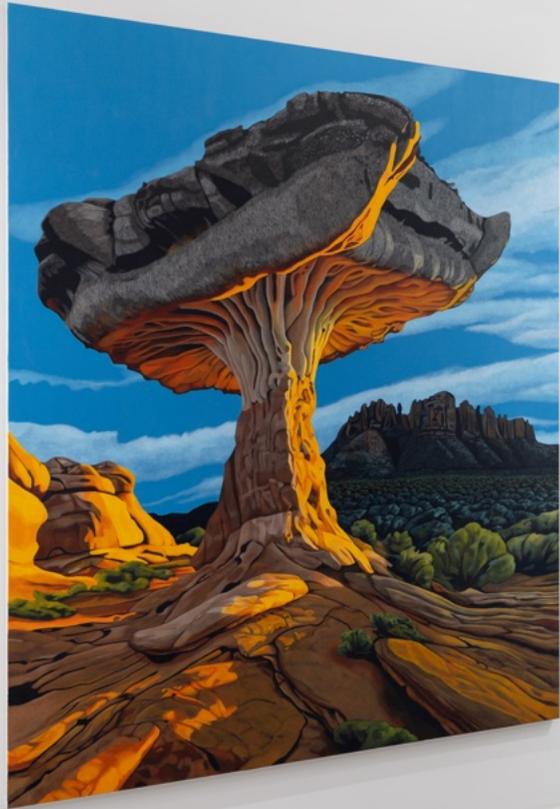
Acrylic and colored pencils on canvas

120 x 150 cm

47.2 x 59.1 in

SL52

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.

Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Christmush tree*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
80 x 60 cm  
31.5 x 23.6 in  
SL38

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.



Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Border Papa*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
SL42

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Installation View, *What Is Really Matter*, Sylvie Lambert, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2026. © Julien Gremaud.

Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Iced Antler*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 70 cm  
39.4 x 27.6 in  
SL49

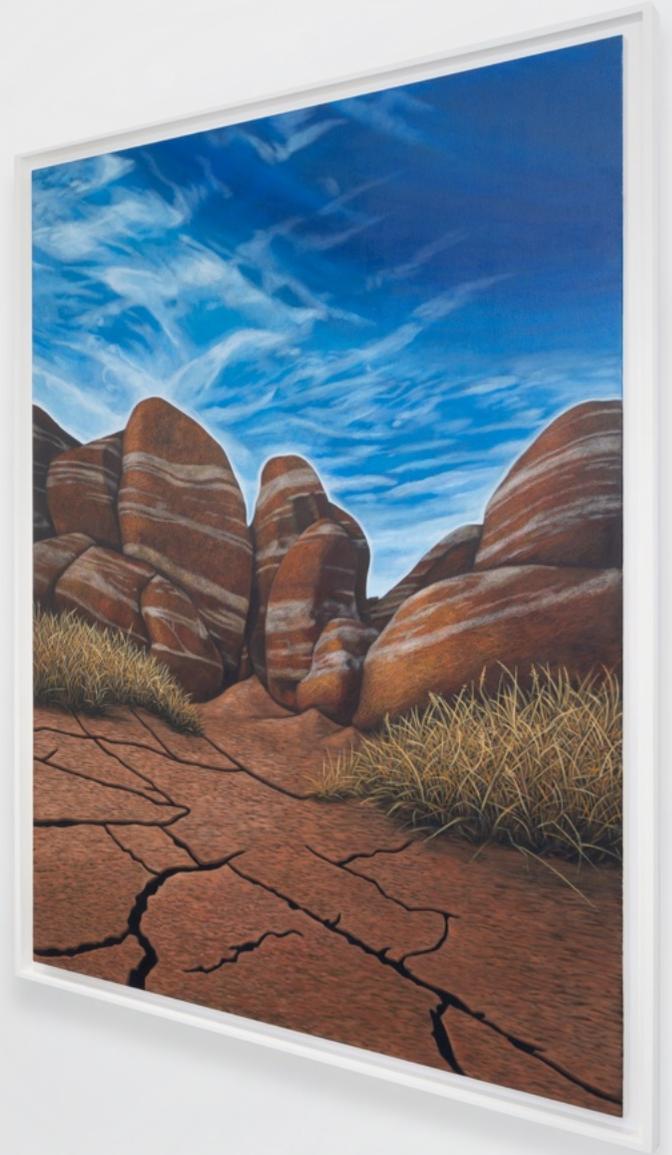
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Sylvie Lambert (French-Canadian, 1984)  
*Felted landscape*, 2025  
Acrylic enhanced with colored pencils on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
SL40

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