

anni wu

FERAL KINDNESS

Galamb Thorday and Claudia Petraroli

24.09.2026

Curated by Giorgia Aprosio

"Good manners" are something we learn before we even know what they are.

Long before we are able to name the rule, we have already learned to correct ourselves and prepare our bodies to become socially legible.

Feral Kindness, an exhibition by Galamb Thorday and Claudia Petraroli, curated by Giorgia Aprosio and opening at Anni Wu Gallery in Milan on 24 September 2026, retraces in reverse the process through which we prepare ourselves to be seen.

The title brings together two words that seem to repel one another.

"Feral" evokes what is wild, animal and untamed. The term, which has no exact equivalent in Italian, is used to describe animals that were once domesticated but have since returned to the wild. "Kindness," by contrast, suggests gentleness and care. It is a reassuring disposition towards others, but also the socially acceptable form assumed by a body trained to appear agreeable. Their conjunction produces the oxymoron from which the exhibition unfolds: how much instinct persists in the gestures we have learned, and how much discipline lies hidden within the forms through which we make ourselves agreeable?

The exhibition begins with the explicit dimension of social ritual and the public performance of femininity. It then moves through the private rituals of care that prepare it to be enacted, before bringing visitors into contact with the inner voice through which the subject has learned to monitor, discipline and modify itself.

Galamb Thorday (Keszthely, Hungary, 1990) is a German-Hungarian artist who lives and works in Leipzig. Thorday studied at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst (HGB) in Leipzig, earning a diploma in Fine Arts and subsequently completing the Meisterschüler programme. Thorday's practice centres primarily on painting. The works combine seemingly realistic figurative fragments within scenes whose meaning and form have been altered. Assembled through associations and dissociations of meaning in a mental process akin to collage, they produce a disquieting surrealism: bodies, objects and animals remain recognisable, yet slip into a visionary, almost psychedelic dimension, as though distorted through an optical lens. Thorday's work has been presented in exhibitions and institutions in Germany and internationally, including the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, the Cheongju Craft Biennale in South Korea, Kunstverein Augsburg and Halle 14 in Leipzig.

Claudia Petraroli (Teramo, 1987) is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Milan. Trained as an art historian and photographer, she worked for several years as a photo editor in the fashion industry. Her artistic practice extends the language of photography through a range of media, including ceramics, video and 3D modelling. Her research explores collective behaviours within consumer society, the symbolic dimension of industrial object design and the persistence and transformation of social rituals, with particular attention to the processes through which contemporary identities are continually post-produced. Her work has been presented in exhibitions and institutions in Italy and internationally, including Triennale Milano, Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome, the Italian Cultural Institute in Munich and Fotografie Forum Frankfurt.

For both artists, **Feral Kindness** marks their first collaboration with the gallery and their first exhibition together.

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