

**SHANEE ROE**  
*WARM SPOT*

Opening: May 14, 2025 7pm  
Exhibition duration: May 15 – June 28, 2025  
Opening hours: Tue-Fri 12-6 pm, Sat 11am-2pm

Galerie Krinzinger is proud to present *Warm Spot*, a bold and emotionally charged solo exhibition by artist Shanee Roe. *Warm Spot* is the place Roe's figures seek amid their disturbing, uncomfortable, and playful encounters—and it draws the viewer into that search as well. It is a quest for a cozy, warm place where, even for a brief moment, relief and comfort emerge within disconnection and awkward situations. Confronted with aggression, harshness, and sweetness—somewhere inside the endless, empty void we are desperate to fill—exists a warm spot. It's not the satisfaction we imagine or long for, but rather a salty-sweet taste of something fleeting: a slippery, cozy moment within loneliness and disguise.

Often presenting exaggerated male forms, Roe complicates traditional notions of masculinity. Roe subverts power dynamics by portraying her male figures with a clumsy, silly softness. In her work ' : ) ', the erect male organ is rendered as a goofy, almost adorable creature, marked by a hideous smiley face that transforms its hardness into a sweet, ridiculous figure. This gesture of looking down on it is not intended to belittle masculinity, but rather to present it in a way that evokes compassion—revealing layers of vulnerability. Her characters may initially appear aggressive or excessive, but Roe gently transforms their postures into ones of awkward affection, self-exploration, and even innocence. These bodies, chaotic and exposed, carry a deep yearning—for closeness and relief. Through absurd contortions, they reveal their inner selves in gestures that are as comical as they are poignant.

At the heart of Roe's paintings is an ambivalent exchange between the inner and outer body. Figures open themselves—sometimes physically, sometimes metaphorically—in search of a gaze, a connection, or a sense of completion. These encounters, often staged with raw immediacy, reflect a human longing to be seen and to be loved. Yet they also acknowledge the impossibility of ever being fully whole or safe. In this paradox, Roe finds beauty—not in resolution, but in tenderness. In *Seeking a Gaze*, the woman is entangled within the muscular embrace of a male figure. His arms, strong

and potentially imposing, are painted in a soft pink that makes them appear more doughy than muscle. She holds his head gently, like a small, fuzzy pet—a fragile organ nestled inside an exaggerated, puffed-up body that betrays the delicate being at its core. Despite his supposed physical advantage, she is the one in control, holding him with quiet authority. He may have, allegedly, the upper hand in strength, but she ultimately defines the emotional terrain of the scene.

Despite the messiness and potential grotesquery of her subject matter, Roe paints with profound empathy. Her figures weep, expose themselves, contort, and reach out. With bold color, humor, and a painterly touch that is both cruel and generous, she invites viewers into a world where emotional and bodily excess is not something to be corrected, but celebrated. These characters are not caricatures of failure; they are reminders of the soft, silly, often heartbreaking ways we search for meaning and closeness in each other.

In *Warm Spot*, Shanee Roe creates an emotional landscape shaped by desire, absurdity, and deep compassion—a place where the grotesque becomes lovable, and where the vulnerable body, in all its exaggerated need, is held with humor and care.

Text by Dr. Avi Feldman