

In Tears

It Will End

PAMELA PHATSIMO SUNSTRUM

Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum
It Will End In Tears
18 September 2025 – 5 January 2025
The Curve, Barbican

CURATOR
Diego Chocano

EXHIBITION ORGANISER
Rita Duarte

HEAD OF VISUAL ARTS
Shanay Jhaveri

DESIGN
Wolfe Hall

EXHIBITION BUILD
Sam Forster Associates Ltd



Reverse: Study for *It Will End In Tears*, 2023
Courtesy Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum and
Goodman Gallery

UP NEXT
Citra Sasmita: *Into Eternal Land*
January 2025

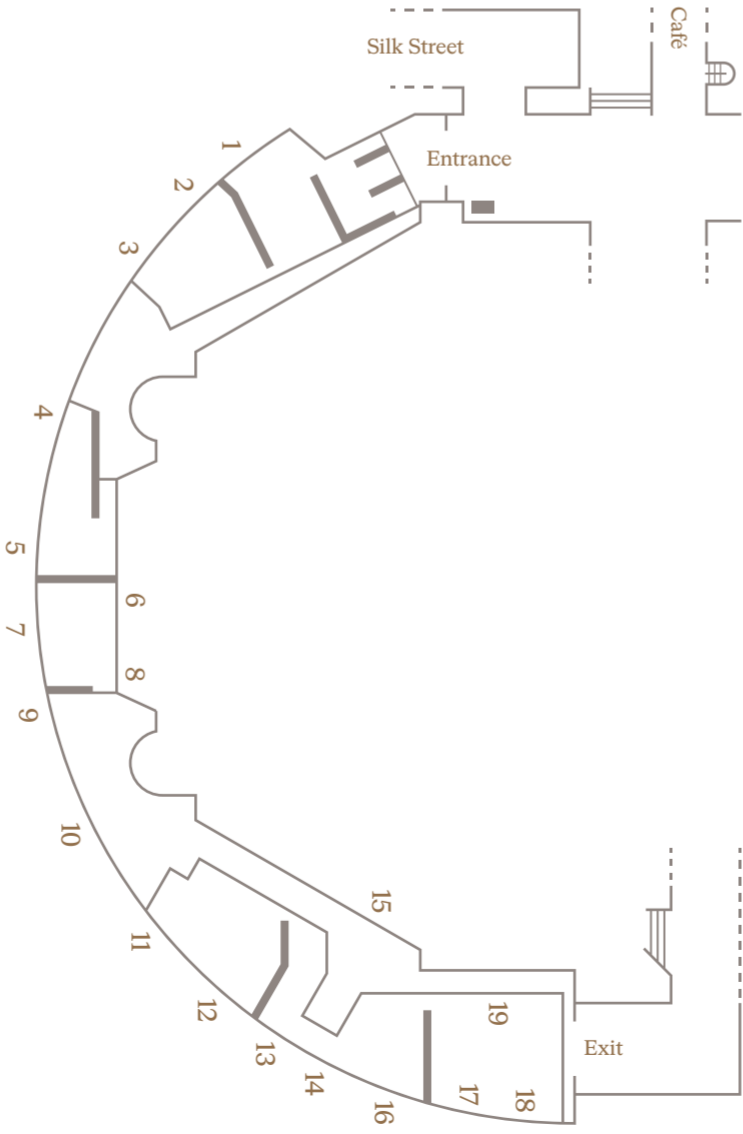
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In her first major UK commission, Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum expands her interest in narrative world-building through a new series of paintings set within a site-specific installation. Drawing from the social and architectural history of the Barbican, *film noir*, theatrical set design and crime novels, this new body of work presents the story of Bettina, a new character in the artist's ever-evolving cast of alter egos.

Bettina arrives in a mid-century colonial outpost and learns to navigate the subtleties of her new rural life. We are invited to explore our protagonist's world through a series of film sets designed in collaboration with Renco Osório Lobato. These sets evoke domestic spaces, colonial bureaucracies, travel waiting rooms and religious gatherings. Walking through these spaces – which are punctuated by painted scenes of Bettina's new life and connected by ramps and wooden walkways – a multivalent narrative unfolds exploring ideas of migration, belonging and freedom.

Sunstrum uses the aesthetic and narrative conventions of *film noir* to question the idea of the femme fatale – a reductive and often misogynistic depiction of women used in film. Taking inspiration from the Barbican as a space for performance and spectacle, Sunstrum draws a connection between the artifice of film making and the social constructs that control, regulate and punish women who challenge the norm. This is reflected in the exhibition architecture – the film sets' interiors create the illusion of reality; their exteriors expose the underlying structures that prop them up and make them appear to be true.



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|---|--------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Scene 1, 2024
140 × 300 cm | 8 | Scene 18, 2024
140 × 200 cm | 15 | Scene 48, 2024
100 × 210 cm |
| 2 | Scene 3, 2024
140 × 200 cm | 9 | Scene 19, 2024
100 × 210 cm | 16 | Scene 58, 2024
140 × 300 cm |
| 3 | Scene 5, 2024
100 × 210 cm | 10 | Scene 21, 2024
140 × 200 cm | 17 | Scene 59, 2024
140 × 200 cm |
| 4 | Scene 7, 2024
100 × 210 cm | 11 | Scene 31, 2024
140 × 200 cm | 18 | Scene 60, 2024
140 × 200 cm |
| 5 | Scene 10, 2024
140 × 200 cm | 12 | Scene 38, 2024
140 × 200 cm | 19 | Scene 69, 2024
140 × 300 cm |
| 6 | Scene 14, 2024
140 × 200 cm | 13 | Scene 42, 2024
140 × 200 cm | | |
| 7 | Scene 16, 2024
140 × 300 cm | 14 | Scene 45, 2024
140 × 300 cm | | |

All works: oil and pencil on
wood panels. Courtesy
Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum
and Goodman Gallery

PAMELA PHATSIMO SUNSTRUM

**"IT WILL
END
in**

TEARS"

*"SET and
FURNITURE
design by
REMCO OSÓRIO LOBATO*

BARBICAN "The Curve"

