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William Villalongo explores the 'Mind, Body, and Soul' at Chelsea gallery show

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The Susan Inglett Gallery in Chelsea is currently presenting an exhibit by William Villalongo for the exhibition *Mind, Body, and Soul*. For this show, Villalongo unveils several vignette paintings where he delves into his own imaginary realm filled with nymphs and sirens surrounded by floral patterns and velvet flocked borders to convey a dreamy atmosphere.



One intriguing piece titled *Olympia's Window* reflects themes of romance the gaze of a man in love. The top left part of the image features a heart shape with the inside of it depicting a woman leaning out of her window and holding her arm out to a man standing outside who reaches his hand out to meet hers as they gaze into each other's eyes. The background of the painting is navy blue and is filled with colorful design including human faces and a figure who appears to be seated Indian-style.

Villalongo pays homage to the four seasons of the year with four different paintings with each one featuring a silhouette of a young woman shown from head to toe with her bones and other internal organs visible and effectively captures the ambience that each season brings. The paintings have one dominant color decorated with unique floral patterns leading to an open space where in which the silhouette is standing. In *Winter*, the color is dark blue with the young woman standing on a block of ice as a bare tree branch hangs over her head. In *Spring*, the color is yellow and the woman is standing on a grassy hill with her bones emitting neon colors. *Summer* also features a woman standing on grass with dark green surrounding the image and so does *Autumn* with the dominant color being bright orange and depicting a squirrel running up a tree.

Racial inequality and social justice are also common themes in Villalongo's work. For instance, *Black Lives Matter* portrays a nude black woman sitting on a bench by a lake wearing boxing gloves and holds up one arm and a silhouette of a woman holding her wrist amidst a navy blue background filled with several shapes including leaves, eyes, black hearts, and an open hand.

At [The Susan Inglett Gallery](#), 522 W. 24th St., through Oct. 17. The gallery is open Tues. – Sat. from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.