

Érresh

The Grotto

Curated by Ashleigh Jones

17 July – 1 August 2026



8 Wall Gallery is pleased to celebrate Érresh's solo exhibition *The Grotto*, opening on **Friday 17 July, 6-8pm**.

Curated by Ashleigh Jones, *The Grotto* presents the work of Sydney-based Russian artist of Tatar heritage Érresh (Ruslan Reshetov).

The exhibition's title evokes the grotto as a private, submerged, and hidden space within our interior lives, a space of retreat where the self can be encountered more freely. It reflects the ways queer experience has often required navigating spaces where aspects of identity remain in the shadows. Historically, grottos were not only natural caves but also elaborate, concealed retreats built within Baroque palaces, including those of queer monarchs, where one could luxuriate among fountains, water deities, and theatrical excess.

Érresh's work embraces the unfolding of this interior world through imagery informed by myth, philosophy, and consciousness. Spanning painting, sculpture, video, and performance, his practice frequently draws on mythological figures and deities, employing materials as varied as stone and bone to create works that traverse the ancient and the contemporary, the symbolic and the personal.

Ashleigh Jones is the Curator at Fairfield City Museum & Gallery and a founding Director and Curator of Passage Gallery in Sydney's Chinatown. Jones first curated *The Grotto* for the Sydney office of the international law firm Clifford Chance as part of Pride Month, and is now delighted to present this body of work to a wider public audience in collaboration with 8 Wall Gallery.

Érresh

THE GROTTO

Opening Celebrations: Friday 17 July, 6-8pm

In Conversation | Ruslan Reshetov & Ashleigh Jones: Saturday 18 July, 2-4pm

The Grotto is on view from Friday 17 July – Saturday 1 August 2026.

To request a catalogue or further information, please contact us via hello@8wallgallery.org.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Ruslan Reshetov is a queer emerging artist working and living on Gadigal Land, Sydney. Of Eurasian, Tatar-Russian origin, Ruslan was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, where he pursued his artistic path from an early age, enrolling in his first art school at the age of five. After participating in numerous international exhibitions, Ruslan later relocated to Sydney, Australia, with his family due to the political and social challenges he experienced as a queer artist.

Moving to Australia has been a great opportunity for his art career, now experiencing the freedom to be out and queer. As from 2026, Ruslan has an exhibition history of over fourteen shows. His practice embraces an artistic approach to unraveling the beauty of the human inner world and the meaning behind consciousness, our place in the world, and what it means to be queer— both within sheltered and emergent environments.



8 Wall Gallery acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which 8 Wall Gallery stands. We acknowledge and pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders, past and present, as the custodians of the world's oldest continuous living culture.