

For Immediate Release

Colin Doherty

Lo Que Queda

6 June – 21 August 2026

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 6th, 4:00 – 7:00pm

Walter Maciel Gallery is pleased to present *Lo Que Queda*, an exhibition of new and older works by Colin Doherty. The title translates to “what remains” or “what is left behind,” representing Doherty’s most personal and emotionally charged body of work to date. Using oil paint to produce paintings on a varying scale, the subjects are shaped by memory, migration, grief and belonging set within the emotional condition of living between two different places, each with a unique version of family and home.

Created while living between Costa Rica and the United States, the paintings emerge from Doherty’s years of moving back and forth while spending time with his two daughters and extended family in Lexington, Kentucky and his wife and young son in Costa Rica. Rather than documenting travel itself, the work captures the feeling of being perpetually mid-departure, of leaving someone behind no matter which direction you are headed. Dense with layered brushwork and atmospheric light, the paintings reward prolonged viewing, soon realizing what first appears cinematic and materially rich gradually reveals itself as an intimate meditation on absence, longing and emotional distance.

Throughout the exhibition, family members appear both deeply present and unreachable. Doherty paints his late parents from memory and imagination; his mother holding him as a child in the green highlands above La Paz, later reappearing “luminous and unreachable” on a nighttime road in Erie, Pennsylvania; his father cradling him beneath tangled power lines. His teenaged independent daughters are portrayed at thresholds of separation: one standing above San José on New Year’s Eve with her back turned, another dissolving into the white light of an airplane window. Doherty paints them in the way he experiences them, both present enough to see clearly but far enough away not to interfere with their moments.

One of the exhibition’s central works entitled *Antigua Casita*, distills the emotional architecture of the series. Set inside an old room in Antigua, Guatemala, the painting depicts Doherty seated apart from his wife, Karla despite sharing the same physical space. The work’s dark, heavily worked surface adorned with smoky mirrors, obscured vases, fractured light reflects the emotional strain of a life spent in transit, while simultaneously preserving what the artist calls “the ordinary miracle of being in the same place.” Throughout these new works, the figures frequently turn away from the viewer or avert their gaze entirely, creating a charged dynamic of observation and emotional proximity. As noted by Doherty, “These paintings invite a deep gaze enabling a prolonged look because the people are not looking back.”

At its core, *Lo Que Queda* is an exploration of what remains in the wake of distance, movement, and time. The paintings do not attempt resolution, but rather they hold contradiction in suspension — love alongside failure, gratitude and grief, closeness within separation. Living his life between Costa Rica and Kentucky, Doherty echoes the stillness his paintings seek to preserve.

Doherty worked as a set designer in the television and film industry for fifteen years before he relocated with his family to Lexington, KY. He was born in Atlanta and received his BA in English/Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1992. Doherty is a self-taught painter who did not formally embrace his artistic talents while attending college. In 2008, He opted to explore the process and challenges of painting following the death of his father after questioning his own mortality and lifetime dreams. This show marks our third solo exhibition of Doherty’s work.