

Ruth Chase

Recent Work

Ruth Chase

"Chase deploys painting and sculpture to cast light on the notion of the soul as a luminous form."

– Joe Nolan, Nashville Scene



FEATURED — Ruth Chase's 'Unbreakable Light' Is Uncanny and Intense
JOE NOLAN
OCT 27, 2026



RUTH CHASE ON FINDING LIGHT IN THE MYSTERY
Joseph E. Morgan | September 3, 2026



Critic's Pick — Ruth Chase: Unbreakable Light' at Galerie Tangerine
LAURA HUTSON HUNTER
AUG 12, 2026

This book presents a selection of art offering an introduction to a body of work that moves between imagination and physics. Much of this work was shown in a solo exhibition at Galerie Tangerine in the fall of 2026 titled Unbreakable Light.

RUTH CHASE BIO

Ruth Chase is a multimedia artist, curator and arts leader based in Tennessee. Through painting, video and sculptural objects, she explores light and the visible and invisible forces that remain unbroken. Drawing from nature, dreams, research and vintage photographs, her work moves between imagination and physics, where memory, wonder and questions of perception intersect. A recurring form she calls the Light Body appears throughout her practice as a symbolic companion evoking unseen presence and guidance. Selected exhibitions include the Diego Rivera Gallery at the San Francisco Art Institute, the Crocker Kingsley Exhibition, the Museum of Northern California Art, Modfellows Art Gallery and Venice Arts. Her film Belonging screened at the Nevada City Film Festival and the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Chase received three consecutive Artist Activating Communities grants funded by the California Arts Council. She was awarded a residency at the Millay Colony for the Arts in New York, has taught at the Crocker Art Museum and received a grant from the Carl Jacobs Foundation as well as a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Los Angeles for Art in Action. Chase received her BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. She currently serves as Regional Arts Director at Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center in Tennessee and curates exhibitions for both Monthaven and Huswej in California.









ARTIST STATEMENT

When the world gets weird, I retreat to my studio, spend time in nature and work it out with paint. I have become obsessed with light, science and consciousness, pulling on the thread and following it wherever it takes me. I spend a lot of time with my feet in the dirt and my face toward the sun. Gosh, light is so damn mysterious. No wonder our ancestors paid such close attention to it. I've been returning to old photographs, some of which I have lived with for decades.

Maybe I'm looking for traces of what they knew as an anchor in such strange times. At one point, a shape revealed itself to me as a Light Body.

You'll see it repeated throughout the work as a simple outline, present as a companion and witness. Sometimes I experience it as ancestral, sometimes angelic. Whatever it is, it reminds me that we are in a relationship with forms of light that are not always visible. So I give you these paintings, Light Keepers and video to experience through your own perception. A record of what I've been noticing. A collection of meditations disguised as art.











Instalation views are from Unbreakable Light curated and installed at Galerie Tangerine.

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IMAGES

Cover:
Unbreakable Light, acrylic on canvas, 73"x48", instalation view of Unbreakable Light exhibition 2026

Image 1:
The Wanderer Dreams of Home, acrylic on canvas, 30"x30"

Image 2:
Can I Get a Witness, acrylic, wax on canvas, 36"x36"

Images 3 & 4:
Mommy, We All Have a Crown, acrylic, oil on canvas, 20"x16"
The Only Place You Belong Is In The Moment, acrylic, wax on canvas, 18 x 18″

Image 5:
Ruth Chase at Galerie Tangerine

Imag 6:
A Sister Among Many, acrylic on canvas, 69"x120"

Images 7 & 8:
Light Keeper, found objects, oil, acrylic on hardwood
She Became Extraordinary, *acrylic on wood, 8" × 10"*

Image 9:
Galerie Tangerine Opening Reception

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For inquiries, availability, or press materials