

# SKARSTEDT

NEWSLETTER

## The T List

### Chantal Joffe Paints Moments of Motherhood and Grief

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A Painter's Exploration of Loss

Image



Chantal Joffe's "Bedside (Small Version)" (2024), one of several self-portraits on view in New York. Credit...© Chantal Joffe, courtesy of the artist, Skarstedt, New York and Victoria Miro. Photo: Jack Hems

By Camille Sojit Pejcha

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For the British painter Chantal Joffe, “art is a way of understanding life.” So when she experienced the loss of her parents and brother-in-law around the same time that her daughter left for college, it became a way of processing their absence. In her new exhibition, “My Dearest Dust,” currently on view at Skarstedt Gallery on New York’s Upper East Side, Joffe explores themes of motherhood and grief, capturing the bittersweet intimacies of daily life with vivid hues of yellow and green. Her self-portraits depict moments of private sorrow — the artist bathing, lying in bed or walking the dog — interspersed with domestic scenes and paintings of her daughter, Esme, whose childhood Joffe previously documented in her work. “Painting is a very visceral thing,” says Joffe. “And in the end, it isn’t a picture at all. It’s an experience.” *“My Dearest Dust” is on view at New York’s Skarstedt Gallery through June 15, [skarstedt.com](http://skarstedt.com).*