

# KEVIN ROUILLARD

## *MIDNIGHT SUN*

September 12 - October 11, 2025

19 Cork Street, London, W1S 3LP

Kearsey and Gold is proud to present the first UK solo exhibition by acclaimed French artist **Kevin Rouillard (B.1989)**. Known across Europe for his powerful wall-based sculptures and monumental metal assemblages, Rouillard brings his practice to the UK with a new body of work that transforms industrial detritus into poetic, powerful, and light responsive sculptures that bridge minimalism and contemporary archaeology.

Rouillard reconfigures industrial material into a new skin — tense, vibrant, and alive with memory — like leather stretched through gesture and time. By hammering, flattening and re-welding metal drums, he constructs expansive monochrome surfaces where every fold, every scar, every taught seam tells a story of contact, transformation, and care extended to matter itself, elevating a so-called “poor” material” into something expansive, elegant and contemplative.

These assemblages eschew associations with armour or defense. Instead, they unfold as tender, protective shields — as suspended hides capable of absorbing light, emitting a subdued warmth, vibrating in response to the space and bodies within it. Light is a governing force here. Inspired by Northern landscapes, Rouillard evokes a world where light dictates the rhythm of experience: at times absent for weeks, plunging everything into continuous darkness; at others relentlessly omnipresent, erasing dusk, bathing bodies in uninterrupted, unbroken brightness. Much like Soulages’ “outrenoir”, black becomes an active surface, not the absence of light, but its subtle architect.

Rouillard’s compositions capture this extreme oscillation — between brilliance and shadow — within the very grain of the material, in its matte, velvety depths and gleaming edges. In this quiet terrain, raw metal is transfigured into a protective layer, an epidermis suspended between night and day, between absorption and gleam. Marked by the labour of their making, these surfaces do not confront. They invite. They offer a sensory refuge — an intimate space where time slows, and touch, light and memory settle into quiet conversation.

*CURATED BY ROXANE HEMARD*

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