Louise Lahive works primarily with Oil on Canvas, she also adds objects that are sourced from nature, for example seeds or dry beans, these objects are carefully placed into her paintings and drawings using oil paint or rabbit skin glue, sometimes they are covered or buried in the paint, sometimes they are painted as mini objects in their own right and added to the images as texture.

Lahive is committed to exploring pattern in her work, pattern that is sourced from natural phenomena like rain or heat, often used as a semi random process to create the image. For example leaving the canvas in the rain to create a direct pattern, or cracking areas of old canvas.

This ‘natural data’ as Lahive describes it is not only limited to the direct process but is also an interest in the paintings subject matter. The natural phenomenon that we can view through scientific methods is linked to what we can see with our naked eye and Lahive explores these patterns and presents them to us as ambiguous areas of her images. The pattern left by rain could be bacteria magnetised, the patterns produced by an MRI could be a landscape.

The themes that are presented in the paintings are sometimes expressed through the biographical. Lahive’s unflinching view of her direct experience leads us to an exploration of imposed or imagined schisms we might experience together.