

DRAWING ROOM

1-27 Rodney Place, Elephant and Castle, London,
SE17 1PP, +44 (0)20 7708 2554
www.drawingroom.org.uk

From the Inside Out

20 September – 11 November 2018

Nilbar Güreş, Marie Jacotey, Athena Papadopoulos and Emma Talbot

From the Inside Out is a group exhibition of female artists who utilise expanded forms of drawing to navigate a passage from personal experience to the outside world. The exhibition features newly created works by all four participating artists and explores the capacity of drawing to convey the complexity and diversity of female experience.

Stories of intimacy and desire are told through a combination of drawing, painting, collage and three dimensional works. Text is sometimes incorporated as fragmented, raw and poetic elements. Each work pivots around the telling of compelling tales - stories of ecstatic sexual encounter, of loss and grief, bravery and self-objectification. For each artist, drawing is an essential means of expression and of experiment that is manifested in both two and three dimensions. Drawing is shown to be a malleable process, sometimes spontaneous, at other times directed. It may drive practice, be a component in a varied output, or an end in itself. Ultimately, where drawing merges with other media, it is as equal partner.

Connecting all artists within this exhibition is their use of pattern, sewing, embroidery and textiles, all of which we associate with the craft of applied arts. Subverting that which has historically been seen as weak, lesser and uninventive, the artists deploy materials for their associations with the domestic and feminine, which they transform into powerful means of expressing female experience.

The works of Nilbar Güreş combine a range of media such as pencil, watercolour, cut fabric and spray paint. Central to Güreş' practice is her exploration and confrontation of patriarchal systems that oppress women and the queer community. Commenting on the intricacies of human relationships and interactions, Marie Jacotey recounts stories of experiences remembered, imagined, observed or overhead. Long influenced by comic strips and graphic novels, Jacotey combines coloured pencil, oil and soft pastel on unconventional substrates, such as tissue paper, silk, plaster and glass. Athena Papadopoulos critiques the societal constructs of femininity today in her visceral assemblages; anarchic cartoon or doodle-like drawings are embedded in her layered fabric wall hangings and freestanding sculptures. Emma Talbot's drawings and three-dimensional works reveal interior psychological space. Her intuitive drawings in watercolour, gouache and acrylic on paper or silk often incorporate her own writing and poetically transfer inner experiential images to describe her sense of the world.

All four artists exploit the democracy of drawing to challenge perceived female roles, and conventional ideas of feminine identity, revealing personal and shared concerns and making visible inner feelings and thoughts, most commonly kept inside. Working in varied and unique ways, each artist exploits a different characteristic of drawing, demonstrating its continued relevance, vitality and potential as an expressive medium.

This exhibition is curated by Mary Doyle and Jacqui McIntosh. A full colour exhibition catalogue with foreword by Mary Doyle and essay by Jacqui McIntosh, will be published at the beginning of October 2018.

List of works (left to right):

Athena Papadopoulos

Even Deader than Dead Grapevine, 2018

Wood dowels, various glues, synthetic hair, antlers, mounted hoofs, enamel spray paint, varnish, image transfers, hair dye, nail polish, thread, wool, stuffing, taxidermy centipede, bedsheets, beaver claws, screws
310 x 210 cm

Floor:

Mahalo, 2018

Metal, medical gauze, various glues, cement, hair dye, synthetic hair, stuffing, wool, felt, thread, jewellery wire, black soap, cigarette butts, varnish, bird wings (various), polyester clear glass resin with confetti, prophylactics and aquatic life, lingerie, cotton wool, makeup, wife beater tank tops, imager transfers, spray paint and acrylic paint
Dimensions variable

All works courtesy the artist and Emalin, London

Nilbar Güreş

Threads of Fabric, Carpet, My Hair, 2018

Mixed media on paper
24 x 30 cm

Watching you on a cloudy day, 2018

Mixed media on paper
24 x 30 cm

Waiting in the middle of a desert, 2018

Mixed media on paper
24 x 30 cm

Frozen Zebra, 2017

Mixed media on fabric
110 x 155 cm

All works courtesy the artist and Galerie Tanja Wagner, Berlin

Emma Talbot

Thrown on the Rocks in an Unfamiliar Place, 2018

Acrylic on silk
4 panels, each 320 x 70 cm

Web, 2018

Watercolour and gouache on khadi paper
30 x 42 cm

Widow on the Rocks, 2018

Watercolour and gouache on khadi paper
30 x 42 cm

Weeds, 2018

Watercolour and gouache on khadi paper
30 x 42 cm

Climbing out of Rocks, 2018

Watercolour, gouache and acrylic on khadi paper
30 x 42 cm

Care, 2018

Watercolour, gouache and acrylic on khadi paper
30 x 42 cm

Gestures of Release, 2018

Watercolour on khadi paper
30 x 42 cm

Floor:

Woman Weaving, 2018

Fabric, foam, synthetic hair, wood, mdf, metal, beads, shells
dimensions variable

All works courtesy the artist

Nilbar Güreş

Military Style House Order & My Wedding

Dress Became a Furniture Cover, 2015

Mixed media on paper
Diptych
20.5 x 29.5 cm each

Courtesy the artist and Galerie Tanja Wagner, Berlin

Marie Jacotey

Gloria in excelsis, 2018

Soft pastel drawings on tissue paper
Triptych comprised of 14 drawings, each panel
90 x 190 cm

Courtesy the artist and Hannah Barry
Gallery, London

Nilbar Güreş

Lovers, 2006-2011

Various sewn fabrics, necklace
80 x 36 x 20 cm (left) 70 x 28 x 15 cm (right)

Courtesy the artist and Galerie Tanja Wagner, Berlin

