

THE REALITY IN WHYTCH YOU CREATE

14 JANUARY - 17 FEBRUARY 2022

Sholto Blissett

Lydia Makin

Alfie Rouy

Anna Woodward

Salomé Wu

"The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless."

Jean Jacques Rousseau

STUDIO WEST presents its inaugural group show, 'The Reality in Whytch You Create', bringing together new works by a selection of London's most exciting emerging artists. The exhibition explores reality in an expanded sense, drawing on dreams, subconscious experience, and myths. The artists separately create surreal depictions of space, unusual characters and new assemblages of images which disorient and challenge the veracity of our experiences. Largely through painting, accompanied by Wu's sound and video work, each artist unveils pieces that collapse and blend facets of the imaginary with the everyday.

The title of the exhibition comes directly from a work by painter Alfie Rouy, who will exhibit dreamlike pieces that create an eerie universe inhabited by serpentine creatures. Anna Woodward investigates utopian and dystopian states in relation to the natural world through painting. She will show her renderings of post-human environments populated by ambiguous plants and insects. Complementing work by Woodward, Lydia Makin's compelling large-scale abstract pieces and images of subversive, saintly figures in luscious oil paint will be displayed.

Multi-disciplinary artist Salomé Wu will present an installation consisting of video and sound pieces. She examines otherworldliness through translations and ever-evolving reinterpretations of a personal mythology, formed from her observation of time, fragility, and the interplay between reality and the unseen. Also on show will be Sholto Blissett's instantly recognizable and perfectly constructed surreal landscapes. Eerily quiet, these scenes are often set amongst vast mountainscapes, immediately enveloping the viewer in a meditative and transformative universe. His work has already garnered significant attention, having recently been exhibited at Peres Projects, White Cube, and Saatchi Gallery.

The works on show are united by a common theme, that of world building, and draw on significant shared influences such as surrealism, classicism, architecture, fantasy, and escapism. The artists question the limits of our environment; common motifs connect the works and invite the viewer to observe the similarities and differences in each artist's presentation of their imagined world. The exhibited pieces largely consist of paintings, complemented by AV work, which blend fluidly, mixing ideas and expanding on the questions posed by each work alone.

This triumphant exhibition emerges directly from the forced extended 'winter' of the global pandemic and thrusts the viewer into the warmth of the artists' worlds. It will be accompanied by an artist Q&A, alongside special events by Salomé Wu including a workshop, an evening performance by her band, and a hand-painted mural inside the gallery.

ABOUT STUDIO WEST

STUDIO WEST is an art gallery in Notting Hill founded in 2021 by curator Caroline Boseley. Its annual exhibition and events programme features the work of the UK's most exciting emerging and newly established artists. It endeavours to fully support the artists it works with through mentorship, hosting opportunities, network building and knowledge sharing, nurturing their growth and helping them to build sustained professional careers without requiring exclusive representation. For collectors, it offers the opportunity to learn more about London's vibrant emerging art scene and purchase artwork made by incredibly promising talents.

Since inception, STUDIO WEST's values have remained the same. It aims to engage fully and authentically with the local community, create a comfortable and welcoming space for all visitors, encourage investment in contemporary art created by emerging and newly established artists and, most importantly, always prioritise the needs of the artists' it works with.

The gallery opened in November 2021 with a duo show by Victoria Cantons and Xu Yang and has since hosted multiple group exhibitions, including 'The Reality in Whytch You Create', 'Fancy a Bite?', 'GROUNDWORK', 'SKIN DEEP' and 'The Angel in the House', and three solo shows with Karolina Albricht, Lydia Makin and Brynley Odu Davies respectively. The gallery runs an annual Open Call Exhibition and Art Prize titled 'NOW Introducing' that invites applications from any artist currently studying on or recently graduated from a London based BA, MA or alternative study programme.

STUDIO WEST is becoming known for thoughtful concept-driven exhibitions, authentic community engagement, and offering comprehensive support to London's emerging artists.

STUDIO WEST

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