

# LILIYA ART

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## GALLERY

**DOUGLAS CANTOR (b. 1989)**

Cry Cowboy Cry

22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL – 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

Finissage: to be announced

158 Putney High Street, London, SW15 1RS

*“My work has always been an exploration of identity: I have often joked that I am all the horses I have ever painted”.*

*- Douglas Cantor*

Liliya Art Gallery is pleased to present *Cry Cowboy Cry*, a solo show by Douglas Cantor.

*Cry Cowboy Cry* offers an emotionally complex body of work. Reflective of both Cantor’s geographical and emotional state, the artist’s current practice focuses on two main motifs: the nude, and the horse.

Having immigrated from Colombia, Cantor’s Latin American upbringing is reflected in the strong graphic quality of his work. Bold outlines are juxtaposed with vibrant colours and eclectic patterns, using thick brushstrokes to create both a flat and dimensional canvas. With a Matisse-like vibrancy, Cantor’s paintings hold a nostalgic power, entrancing the viewer and immersing them in saturated hues of blues, oranges and reds referencing his Colombian heritage.

*Cry Cowboy Cry* is an intimate exhibition that will track Cantor’s familiarity with his chosen subject matters. In his numerous images employing the traditionally male-dominated genre of the female nude, Cantor creates a diversity of powerful representation reveal strong and powerful women taking control of some of Cantor’s largest canvases.

*Hate in Your Palm Reading* (2020), a sizeable work sitting at 200 by 170cm, depicts a woman standing abreast a white chair, in front of a large palm tree and standing on a heavily patterned floor. Staring directly out, the figure addresses the viewer, resisting objectification, and powerfully demanding our full attention. The familiarity and respect Cantor has with the body he paints, his wife and fellow painter Sophie Vallance-Cantor, seeps deep into each work. These nudes, as Cantor understands them, are a soulful depiction of an intimate relationship, a reverent perspective of the woman he lives with, works with, and ultimately, is inspired by.

Nudes are often seen alongside a horse – or more specifically, a stallion. These powerful and muscular beings are an embodiment of the artist himself. A symbol that references Cantor’s upbringing, the horse is viewed as the extension of the working man, alongside a reference to power and wealth.

The cowboy as referenced in the title, is not the Hollywood representation of masculinity and power, but rather a figure of isolation, emotion, loneliness, and hard work. At the core of this symbol is an exploration of identity and freedom. Cantor’s practice is pushed forward by a sense of truthfulness and intuition, a pictorial tribute to the act of making and the desire to present an element of himself in each canvas.

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For press inquiries, please contact: [info@liliya.uk](mailto:info@liliya.uk)

Liliya Art Gallery  
158 Putney High Street  
London  
SW15 1RS  
[www.liliya.uk](http://www.liliya.uk)

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### **About The Gallery:**

Liliya Art Gallery provides a platform for engaging and innovative artists working in the fields of painting, sculpture, and ceramics.

We foster diversity, transparency, and excellence in everything we do; offering an exciting space that supports multi-discipline, emerging talent from around the world. Working with some of the best art professionals in London, we have a strong and knowledgeable team who specialise in helping clients build unique and valuable collections.

Beginning with a series of month-long back-to-back solo shows, we are proud to be opening our space during a time when supporting artists has never been more important.