

Dark Roots

12.07.22 - 05.08.22

a trio show

with

Mafalda Figueiredo

Kora Moya Rojo

Alfie Rouy



Alfie Rouy, *Swyft Arrow*, Acrylic on Canvas, 100 x 70 cm

PV Monday 11th July 2022 6:00 - 8:30

This exhibition brings together three contemporary artists who use paint to combine the real and the imaginary. Each artist creates their own world within the canvas – a portal for both the artist and the viewer to escape into. All three artists are showcasing new bodies of work exploring the metamorphosis between the conscious and subconscious.

Dark Roots explores the power of paint to reconnect and reconsider our own experiences with the world around us. The artists wrestle with contemporary notions of what it is to exist in a rapidly changing environment. Whilst Rouy seeks comfort in the unfamiliar and dream-like landscapes, Moya Rojo utilises biomorphic surreal still life to connect to her past. Figueiredo uses the power of dystopian settings to release her past experiences, allowing her to confront the language of pain. Together, these works foster an intimate dialogue of what it is to exist in the world's current state of consciousness. By drawing on reality in an expanded sense, these artists underpin what it means to live in a climate of uncertainty and displacement – for example, how for some, Brexit has called into question a displaced sense of identity; the pandemic has distanced and de-socialised us and created a climate of fear; and the digital age has challenged the real from the dreamscape. The need for escapism and fantasy has never been so critical.

As a Spanish / British national, Kora Moya Rojo explores themes of displacement and nostalgia. In this new body of work, *The Transplant*, she creates colourful biomorphic still-lives depicted in a neo-surrealist style. Her canvases portray mutated food which pulsate with rich and bold colours, whilst her hyper-realistic ceramic fruits deceive the viewer into questioning the boundaries that separate the real from the unreal. Moya Rojo's paintings depicting foodstuffs such as rhubarb, beetroots, and cheddar crisp, become eroticised through her intoxicatingly potent colour palette; combining Spanish and British gastronomy with art, Moya Rojo's new body of work calls into play the nostalgia food provokes through smell, taste, and sight. Embodying these senses in her work through a hybridised depiction of tapas and British dishes, she captures a sense of how her mixed identity can create a sense of displacement and nostalgia.



Kora Moya Rojo, *El Transplante*, 2022, Oil and Acrylic on Canvas, 100 x 120 cm

Mafalda Figueiredo's new body of work, *The Fire Series*, reflects on the idea of being observed by placing herself within these alternate realities and combining the real with the imaginary. In using her dreams as inspiration for her work and through using her own image for her subjects, she creates a space in which she is in-between her perception of self and her reflection. Figueiredo transforms the canvas into a space to contain loss and as a ritualistic process of letting go, using colour to convey emotional states. Through seeing herself in these alternate realities, she transforms from being a passive object into an active viewer, thereby displacing herself from the narrative in the painting.



Mafalda Figueiredo, *DIY Home Renovations*, 2022, Oil on Canvas, 180 x1 60 cm

Similarly, Alfie Rouy draws on his subconscious for the subject of his work, finding that the alternate reality of dreams creates a sense of unsettled nostalgia through memory. Like Moya Rojo, Rouy gives an airbrushed, almost flat, quality to his paintings through multi-layering of paint. His free-flowing forms and ethereal creatures which stretch across the canvas aim to embody both reality and the unknown - using the depiction of the 'real' such as tigers - whilst simultaneously creating serpentine figures inspired by myths to produce vivid dystopian settings on his canvas. Rouy's work unsettles and plays with the conscious and subconscious.

Dark Roots illuminates the different approaches by three contemporary artists using the power of paint to create worlds within which the possibilities and outcomes are limitless. During a time of global uncertainty and political turmoil, where the truth is obscured by the imagined and the unimaginable becomes reality, these works provide both a place of refuge, and allow a space within which to dream.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mafalda Figueiredo

Mafalda Figueiredo (b.1991, Lisbon) is a figurative London-based painter. She graduated from the Fine Arts University of Lisbon in 2013 and has subsequently worked in Berlin and London, where she is now based. Coming from an artistic family, creativity is intrinsic to Figueiredo's persona. As a child she always felt constrained and observed. This incited within her a desire to create, to live the freedom she longed for, through drawings and paintings she produced obsessively. These feelings were intensified in adolescence as she became increasingly aware of the gaze of the opposite gender, the objectification of that very look, and the need to either shield from it or fight it. Figueiredo is interested in intuition, self-analysis and self-observation and believes every involuntary idea that comes to mind has meaning and comes as a message from the subconscious. She interprets spontaneous ideas as one interprets dreams: through a process of signification, looking at the visual elements as symbols and decoding their meaning according to the context and experience of the dreamer.

Through figurative painting, Figueiredo attempts to project this thought process into images. She portrays figures looking out of the painting as if they are struck by the realization of being observed. She's interested in transitioning states, constantly questioning where and when one moves from the position of object of observation to observer, and the imaginary time and space between these two states. Recently, her work has been exhibited in Berlin and London and international art fairs such as Positions Berlin and Volta Basel. In March 2020, Figueiredo had her debut solo exhibition in the US.

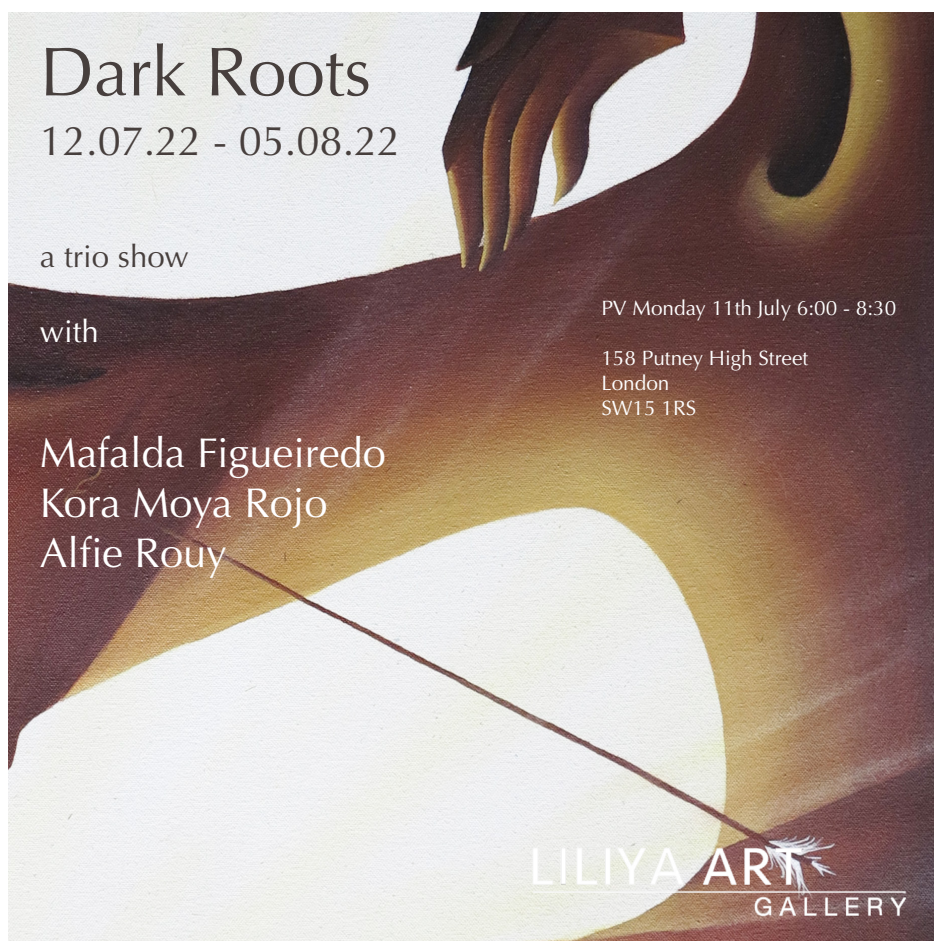
Kora Moya Rojo

Kora Moya Rojo (b.1993, Spain) is a visual artist who is currently living and working in London. After having graduated with a BA in Fine Art from University of Fine Arts, Murcia in Spain, she moved to London to continue her art practice. Examining the complex effects of childhood trauma, female oppression, and urban migration, she investigates personal displacement and national identity in symbolic scenarios that overflow with utopian potential. Digitally reconstructing dreams, imaginations and memories onto canvases, Moya Rojo creates eerie worlds that inhabit the liminal space between the conscious and the unconscious. Her androgynous, embryonic figures stretch beyond the earthly domain to the otherworldly as they hybridize with provincial food, coalesce with existing objects, and mutate with unspecified surroundings. In a continuous metamorphosis, the internal and external forces at play make the familiar foreign, and the foreign disturbingly familiar.

Alfie Rouy

Alfie Rouy (b. 1998, Kent) graduated from UAL Camberwell with a BA in Painting in 2021. He explores subtle ways of materialising the flow of versatile, fluid-like energies, frequencies and vibrations that intertwine the mind with the Earth's current phase of existence. Alongside this, within the work, there is a coherent narrative that points towards the evolution of the soul and the oneness of all. Aiming to provide insight into this, Rouy's paintings are visualised by confined yet free flowing forms expressing elements of polarity and unity through figurative imagery, with the intention to depict reality in an elusive and non-realistic way. A vision of dreamlike divinity and surreal reality is accompanied by a formulated array of warm hazy colours amongst complimentary vibrant tones, extending the over exaggerated notion of the works original intent of transposing peace, love, wisdom, and unity upon the viewer. Therefore, encoded within the paintings are consistent patterns that purposefully allure its audience to these conclusions. However, this is done with the intention to be more apparent to the individual who already understands this and leaving the rest open for speculation and wonder in auspicious mystery.

While engaged upon this path of understanding, Rouy's influences have had its roots in an array of subjects, ranging from a romanticised and nostalgic view upon the mystery of the Dark Ages combined with ancient Eastern philosophies and the Hermetica, to more material inspirations such as that of plant life and the patterns within it that occurs throughout the universe. However, Rouy now works in a way where outside inspiration is purposefully limited and focuses on working with his intuition and subconscious to allow further growth within. This is done with the hope to depict a newer more authentic imagery that is better suited to humanity's current state of consciousness. One which fits a new age, that although may echo traditional symbols in some ways, isn't limited to the binds of previous interpretations of these emblems that have been manipulated over centuries.



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LILIYA ART
GALLERY

LISTINGS INFORMATION

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Private View: 11.07.22 6:00 - 8:30

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ABOUT LILIYA ART GALLERY

Liliya Art Gallery provides a platform for some of the most 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.