

# To Touch You

18.01.23 – 21.03.23

Private View 17th January  
6:30 – 9:00



Abi Giltinan, *Feelin' Myself*, Acrylic  
on Canvas,  
61 x 77 cm



Orla Murray, *I'm Not Good with  
Words*, Oil on Canvas,  
150 x 200 cm

Abi Giltinan  
Henry Glover  
Orla Murray  
Melitta Nemeth  
Robyn Packham

Intimacy for oneself, intimacy shared, the intimacy of a stare or a quiet moment. Liliya Art Gallery's first exhibition of 2023 brings together five contemporary artists who use paint as a medium to capture scenes of intimacy. Each artist explores these unguarded and personal moments, boldly bringing them into the public sphere.

The human experience thrives and depends on intimacy for survival. Studies have shown that those experiencing a lack of intimacy with others, usually gained through friendships and relationships, have a shorter life expectancy. In an environment of smartphones and increasing hours in working weeks we are increasingly starved of intimacy and touch. In this exhibition, we hope to provide a space within which to reconnect with this intimacy, in the hope of re-establishing what it means to be human.

*To Touch You*, dissects the meaning of intimacy, and explores the intimate relationship between painting and touch. Dualities emerge as the artists confront how this impacts our experience of touch and intimacy. Vulnerability and power, fear and desire, self and other come together to challenge preconceived ideas and illusions of the meaning of intimacy.

The selected paintings explore a visual language of intimacy and seek to expose how touch and emotional intimacy impacts our day to day through simple moments. The intimacy expressed in the works encourages the viewer to feel with them and be as one. To share this in these moments and simply focus on feeling.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Abi Giltinan

Abi Giltinan (b. 1995) is a London-based artist working across painting and sculpture. Giltinan approaches the body as a site of conflict and contradictory sensations. A whirlwind of colourful, dreamlike bodies present a rich duality of pleasure and fear, chaos and harmony, fluidity and frozenness. The epitome of extreme polarity is perhaps found in the sensation of desire, which underpins Giltinan's visual language. A sense of frenetic chasing and wanting dominates the nudes in her paintings, whom Giltinan views through physical, visceral experience, drawing on greed and desire and contemporary attitudes towards pleasure. Ambiguous nudes are both seduced and haunted by their wants in these images; they overlap and dance through indeterminate scenes, are shadowed by visions, and seem to shift in and out of focus.

### Henry Glover

Henry Glover is a London based painter and ceramicist who won the Saatchi Art 'Rising Star' award in 2020, naming him as one of the top 35 artists around the world under 35 years old. His work explores the interplay between the physical sensations of materials and the raw emotions he experiences in his daily life and personal relationships. . His works are in private collections across the world, ranging from America to Europe and South Korea. Glover graduated from Wimbledon College of Arts in June 2020 with a BA (Hons) Fine Art: Painting, and has been actively exhibiting since, including his debut solo exhibition 'Take Me Somewhere Nice' at Liliya Art Gallery March/April 2021.

### Orla Murray

Orla Murray b.1998, is a London based artist having recently graduated with a BA in Fine Art from City and Guilds of London Art School. Her practice focuses on large scale, figurative oil paintings. Working from a variety of sources including fashion editorials, historical artworks, life, and imagination. The works capture intimate scenarios, and aim to create a connection between the artwork and the viewer. They often feel intrusive or voyeuristic, as though the viewer has perhaps been caught peeking at a vulnerable moment, with the distorted figures within the paintings existing as a hybrid of the real and the imagined world. The works take on a partly diaristic format, in that they comment on the artist's own lived experiences, and partly form a larger social commentary on subjects such as relationships, intimacy, power and desire.

### Melitta Nemeth

Melitta Nemeth is a figurative painter based in London. She graduated from the Camberwell College of Arts with an MA in Painting in 2021. Her work, Night Bathers 3, was included in London Grads Now 2021 at the Saatchi Gallery and mentioned by Waldemar Januszczak in the article '12 future stars of the art world you should know about'.

Nemeth uses photos from diverse sources as reference, including old photographs, newspaper illustrations and her own photos to explore the female gaze in painting. Her expressive paintings, investigate how meaning is formed through the material production of the image. While reinventing the depiction of women from a female perspective, she focuses on ideas of beauty, power, body-positivity, otherness, and displacement. As a female artist, it is crucial for Nemeth to take ownership of the representation of women. Her work is concerned with changing the perception of the female body by depicting it as a place of joy, memory, experience, and personal stories. She explores how women look at women and what the male gaze cannot see. "My memories of growing up in the conservative, patriarchal world of the Eastern Block feeds into my work. I have always seen women as pillars of strength in society." Nemeth's paintings reveal the absurdity, joy, melancholy, lightness and darkness within this unique female experience.

## Robyn Packham

Robyn Packham (b. 1997, Gibraltar) is a painter based in Herefordshire, she graduated with First-Class Honours for her BA in Drawing and Print in 2020 (Bristol). In 2021 she was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Painting Prize and a unique residency at Dumfries House in Scotland through the Royal Drawing School. Most recently, Robyn's work was chosen from over 2000 international entries for the 2022 Derwent Art Prize exhibition at Gallery@OXO, selected to later tour Paris.

Robyn Packham specialises in drawings and paintings which draw from nature and human experience. Her work is rooted in drawing from life in sketchbooks, gathering observations and memories to form ethereal, transient scenes that resonate with the passing of the seasons and new life. She is inspired by the vivid stories that can be discovered in mythology, folklore, and archaeology, and translates these to paintings with a dreamlike quality, that challenge us to open our eyes to the richness of the human condition.

## 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.

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