

Hunting the Dawn

24.05.23 - 15.06.23

a group show

with

Ella Garvey

Frances Joy Macgregor

Aniela Preston

Salomé Wu

Exhibition Opening:

Wednesday 24th May 6:30 - 9PM



Salomé Wu, *Touched the Land with its Healing Hand*, 2021, Oil on Canvas, 76 x 101 cm

Liliya Art Gallery is pleased to present *Hunting the Dawn*, an exhibition showcasing new and recent work by Ella Garvey, Frances Joy Macgregor, Aniela Preston and Salomé Wu. Influenced by religion, mythology and the spiritual, the exhibiting artists harness the poetic power of paint to create an in-between world, blending reality and myth. The works encourage a sense of wonder, and an open ended approach to viewing. Eluding fixed meaning, these painted worlds transport the viewer to a different time and space - contemporary portals through which we can re-examine our reality.

Aniela Preston offers quiet glimpses into intimate moments, depicting interiors that blend the contemporary with the classical in a hyper-realist style. Preston draws parallels between her subject matter and biblical accounts to highlight the desecration of the natural world in the hope to inspire a sense of responsibility for the environment from the viewer. In the work of Salomé Wu, classical figures are reimagined in alternate contexts wherein the borders of her work act as theatre stages where anything and everything is possible – reality and myth unite to form an otherworldly performance. Ella Garvey mythologises the space and objects in her work to create illusionary dreamscapes. Combining disparate elements within her paintings, the canvas becomes an arena of the subconscious, a place of ambiguity and contradiction. Multidisciplinary artist Frances Joy Macgregor explores the power of creative practice to provide a gateway into other worlds. Inspired by natural landscapes and animistic beliefs, she imagines protective worlds as places of comfort.

Hunting the Dawn brings together four contemporary female artists, exploring the power and beauty of imagined worlds. The artists invite the viewer to draw from their own understanding of mythology and religion, and to illuminate storytelling through their chosen symbols and motifs. The works absorb the viewer into a space of the seen and unseen, the real and the imagined, blurring the line between myth and reality.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ella Garvey

Ella Garvey is a sculptor and painter working and living in London. She graduated in 2022 with a BA in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins. Her practice centres around the mythologising of space and objects, using paint as a tool to play with form. She sees her practice as a way to explore personal narratives through the reimagining of dream symbols and collected imagery. The paintings appear as theaters of contradictions, blending myth and reality, interior and exterior, the soft and the refined. Drawing from many different sources, from folklore, religion and alchemical symbols to nature and art nouveau design objects, she aims to create mythological lyricism and poetry from the ordinary. Much like waking up from a dream, the narrative is unclear and requires the dreamer to uncover their own meanings and truths.

Frances Joy Macgregor

Frances Joy Macgregor is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist based in Brighton, working primarily in paint, mixed media and puppetry. Since leaving education at the age of eighteen her practice has been built on introspection and guided by a curiosity of the unseen. She employs painting and textile sculpture (in the realm of puppetry) as her primary mediums to express a folkloric narrative throughout her work. Among the use of storytelling as guidance, animistic beliefs inform her works as she leans into the idea of protective spirit. This leads into the intention of her work acting as a talisman, finding a self-soothing quality to being under the tutelage of your own creation.

Aniela Preston

Aniela Preston (b. 1998, Coventry, UK) graduated from her Fine Art BA at the University of Leeds in 2021 after completing her Foundation Diploma at Central Saint Martins. In 2022 she was selected as a finalist for the Ingram Prize and most recently she has been selected as a finalist for the Royal Society of British Artist's 2023 Rome Scholarship. Her work aims to explore the relationship of the individual within the natural world. She is drawn to the rich symbolism and emotive qualities of classical figures within art, and in her paintings, she places them within unnatural spaces and settings. She experiments predominantly with colour palettes, which she selects to add to the ambivalence of the scenes they portray. Painting predominantly in acrylic, she hopes her paintings are not just aesthetic objects, but rather invitations to engage upon the impact with which our individual actions have upon the natural world.

Salomé Wu

Salomé Wu (b.1996) lives and works in London. Wu is currently studying for her MA at the Royal College of Arts after graduating in 2020 with an MA in Printmaking from Camberwell College of Arts and in 2019 with a BA in Textiles Design & Print from Chelsea College of Arts. Salomé Wu's otherworldly and primordial paintings, drawings and textiles explore the relationship between figuration and abstraction, relaying spontaneous motifs that cause the viewer to question their perceived reality. Wu describes her painting language as an exploration towards a concept where 'you are no longer restricted by the parameters of language or labelling that allow you to move away from attaining fixed ideas.' Wu's work has been collected privately, widely in the UK, France, Switzerland and the USA.



Aniela Preston, *There is no Justice*, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 65 x 50 cm

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Hunting the Dawn

Ella Garvey, Frances Joy Macgregor, Aniela Preston, Salomé Wu

25.05.23 - 15.06.23

Private View: 24.05.23 6:30 - 9:00 PM

158 Putney High Street, London, SW15 1RS

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.