

BEHIND HER EYES

A Solo Show

By

ROO ABROOK



'Queen kitten loves you.' Original. 80x100cm canvas. 2021. Multimedia collage on deep edged canvas: acrylic paint, aerosol paints, neon paints, digital photography. Available at Turner Art Perspective.

A Solo Show by Roo Abrook being exhibited at the Turner Art Perspective gallery in Shenfield, Essex. Available to view from the 25th of September 2021 – 23rd October 2021.

Roo Abrook is a figurative artist heavily inspired by Pre-Raphaelite portraits, the Dadaism and Surrealist art movements, whilst also combining old literature and femininity into her artworks. She beautifully depicts mainly women and children by using disregarded vintage Victorian photographs. As well as this, Roo collects Edwardian postcards that feature female actresses and performers, this is very significant to her artwork as she aims to bring disregarded female figures of the past back to life into something worth valuing again. Within her work, she investigates and poses self-reflecting questions about the subject matter of beauty, youth, and time.



A selection of Roo Abrook's newest canvas artworks on display at Turner Art Perspective gallery - **Size:** 80x100cm canvas. **Medium:** Multimedia collage on deep edged canvas: acrylic paint, aerosol paints, neon paints, digital papers, goldleaf, silverleaf, painted copperleaf. **Date:** Taken in August 2021. **Location:** 37A Boyton Hall Lane, Little Roxwell, Chelmsford, CM1 4LN.

Mirroring the concept of, 'Eternal Recurrence,' which was coined by philosopher and critic of modernity, Walter Benjamin. Roo is also fascinated at

how past trends and themes are dying out into the old, and then being reborn into the new and current again. As she explains here:

"I'm a huge admirer of fauna and flora, the way nature is constantly changing, dying back and rejuvenating. I'm especially interested in decoration, pattern and themes of adornment. I'm constantly focusing on objects of beauty that are short lived and I am fascinated how we are seduced by decoration and how those tastes have changed throughout time."

Roo's work is heavily inspired by her teenage years where she was obsessed with magazines, such as, ID and punk/new wave publications. By recycling old magazines to use as the framework of all her pieces she has developed some distinctive techniques, Roo creates layers with music paper and past graphite drawings, then screen prints onto tissue paper and adds final touches with neon spray paint, varnish and hand-painting with acrylic paints and touches of gold leaf. As explained in her own words:

"I use Antique book pages within my work, unwanted with little value that I feel have a beauty and combine these with contemporary materials such as screen prints, digital prints, photocopies (that's retro now) and neon spray paints to play with timelines. I am continually developing these timelines by investigating beauty, time, youth and ageing."

There is an individual and creative use of many mediums which all come together to create her lovely pieces. Roo's work and concepts showcase her rare creative depth, which makes her work so unique and collectable. Her style and vision appeal to a very interesting audience, attracting buyers from all over the world to generate a global demand for Roo's art pieces.

Furthermore, as well of discourses of the recurring cycle of the past and present. Roo's work also highlights themes of romanticism and femininity. Her

artworks all include female faces which captivate the viewers into seeing the soul through the eyes of women. By including these female figures in her work, Roo aims to challenge the ideology of beauty, what is deemed beautiful by one person, may not be seen as beautiful by another. Femininity from the past has been consciously re-contextualised to provoke thoughts about today's media culture that is obsessed with superficial youth. And with the increasing pressures to look beautiful in society, and for women to meet society's current beauty demands, it is hard to keep one's individuality intact. And that is what Roo is trying to remind us, that individuality is beautiful.

Talking of her work, Roo said that she worked in the fashion industry for a while which had given her a sense of coordinating her artwork into mini collections. At the moment, Roo's most recent work involves using more 50's magazines as collage with typography, adding depth and layering to her current work. Throw in neon colours and you can see a distinctive change in direction with the women's faces having a strong, visual look to them.

Chatting about her style you can see that her childhood has played a big part in her passion for collecting old things. As a young girl always pottering around auction rooms, finding interesting old things it then developed into being an adult and wandering around car boots and antique shops to find the perfect art materials.

Roo studied fine art, first at college, then at university, whilst also adding metal and ceramics courses to her studies. Roo had a very creative start, working in the fashion industry, owning her own fashion label in the 90s and then working in graphic design. Roo has always lived and breathed in creative fields of work. What I find exciting about her is that she has adapted and used her experience in all these fields in her art. Working in an organic way, Roo follows her feelings. She likes to work on collections and sometimes then go back and revisit the work she has done in the past.

The composition of Roo's modern portraits portray an overall feeling of natural strength and beauty mixed with the fragility of the brief and every changing life that we all share.

Roo has produced artwork for record releases, gallery shows and original commissions for well-known musicians' homes, such as, Gem Archer (formerly Oasis, presently Noel Gallaghers High Flying Birds) to produce canvases for Liam Gallagher, Nicole Appleton (All Saints) and Andy Bell (formerly Oasis, presently Ride). Roo's paintings have been steadily selling to collectors with works being regularly sold at Art Fairs in London's Hampstead and Battersea, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Roo's most current solo show exhibition titled, 'Behind Her Eyes,' is being showcased by, Turner Art Perspective, at their Shenfield gallery. Starting from the 25th of September 2021 for 4 weeks. This show will include all Roo's newest masterpieces, including 6 canvas works, and 2 editions of 20 prints. Be sure not to miss out!



Photograph of Roo Abrook herself in her studio. Image provided by Roo Abrook.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION:

Dates: 21st August – 25th September 2021

Venue: TAP Galleries Ltd 21 Hutton Road Shenfield CM15 8JU

FREE ENTRY Gallery opening times: Monday-Friday 9:30am – 5:30pm Saturday 10am – 5pm *Viewing by appointment available outside these times*

Email: info@turnerartperspective.com

Phone: 01277 500554 (Shenfield)

Website: www.turnerartperspective.com

Find out more about the artwork on show and the artists on the Turner Art Perspective website at www.turnerartperspective.com

Past Exhibitions, Shows and Events:

'Behind Her Eyes,' A Solo Show at Turner Art Perspective gallery, Essex, 2021

Preview Group Show, Art Salon, Bath, May 2020

New York Affordable Art Show, March 2020

'Reflections' Solo show at Hounds of Southsea, November 2019

'Semi Skimmed' Group Show, Waluso Gallery, Hoxton, London, November 2019

'Staggeringly Good' Group Show at Play Dead Gallery, Southsea, August 2019

Cheltenham Paint Festival, September 2019

'Making Magic - Street Art and Paste-Up Workshop at The Apex Gallery, Portsmouth 2019

The Cursed City project - Gallery Show, Cascades, Portsmouth, 2019

The Cursed City project - multi platform: street paste ups, online and social media, performances, 2019

Hong Kong Affordable Art Fair 2019

London Battersea Affordable Art Fair 2019

Cheltenham Fresh Art Fair 2019

Ascot Fresh Art Fair 2019

Art Salon Gallery Group Show April 2019

Edinburgh Art Fair 18

'Face 2 Face' Solo Show, Hounds, November 2018

Singapore Affordable Art Fair 2018

Hong Kong Affordable Art Fair 2018

London Hampstead Affordable Art Fair 2018

Fresh Art Fair 2018

London Battersea Affordable Art Fair 2018

'In your Face' Solo Show, Hounds, November 2017

Hong Kong Affordable Art Fair 2017

London Hampstead Affordable Art Fair 2017

London Battersea Affordable Art Fair 2017

Art Salon Gallery Group Shows, Bath - Spring/Summer 2018, Autumn/Winter 2017,
Spring/Summer 2017, Autumn/Winter 2016,

Atelier Gallery, Castle Rd, Portsmouth - 4 group shows Summer 2016