

Press Release

Vibrant Journeys in Paint: Arabella Ross and Carrie Stanley

Exhibition at the Stables Café, Blenheim Palace, from Friday 10th June



Images: Left: Carrie Stanley in her studio; Right: Arabella Ross in her studio

The next exhibition coming soon to the Stables Café at Blenheim Palace brings together two contemporary artists, Arabella Ross and Carrie Stanley. The exhibition *Vibrant Journeys in Paint* opens to the public on the 10th June and continues until September.

Both artist's work is full of energy, colour and expression and is informed by personal narrative and memories. Stories are weaved through the paintings and glimpsed by the viewer. These artists are united not only by their use of memory and narrative but are also connected by their process, which is organic and to some extent automatic for each. The materiality of the work for both artists is extremely important with energetic mark making as paint is liberally smeared, smudged or poured. Arabella comments: "Carrie's work is beautifully expressive; her use of her paint, subject matter and mark making. To exhibit together at Blenheim Palace is an exciting opportunity for us both."

The paintings are almost dreamlike narratives. Suggestion is prioritised over realism for these artists as they transmute the representational world into their own personal semi abstract worlds. Motifs and images are layered – some submerged and others floating in an almost Chagallian fantasy. Both artists work on a large scale which lends itself well to the Stables café. Carrie comments "Arabella's work echoes my own search for balancing the light and dark of human experience through the absolute joy of painting and I'm very excited to be showing alongside her."

ENDS

Venue

The Stables Café
Blenheim Palace
Woodstock
Oxfordshire
OX20 1UL

Press Contact

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Opening Hours

Open daily: 10 – 5PM

About the Artists

Arabella Ross is a vibrant oil painter whose early experiences of India has influenced her use of colour and expression. She weaves a story throughout her drawings, paintings and forms, some human, some animal, to create a visual language that resonates poetically. Her paintings are statements about the beautiful world she lives in. The techniques vary from brushwork, pouring, splashing, smearing the paint directly from the tube, throwing the paint from the air, drawing with graphite into the surface and impasto. What emerges is an organic process that begins with an idea and evolves and manifests itself into a beautiful work of art. *"I am always interested in letting the oil paintings, drawings and instinctive marks flow from an energy that is bold, with a powerful love of colour and gesture. I like to reference the smaller works in watercolours I have made and photographs taken in situ.*

With this information I immerse myself into the painting process and pay close attention to any ideas, shapes and marks that emerge. I like to be surprised and continually seek to draw out and express in swathes of energy the qualities of light and darkness that are metaphors for human nature."

Carrie Stanley is an expressive figurative oil painter whose work delves into psychology and personal history via an automatic painting process which allows for a rich, unexpected and vibrant use of colour and marks. Her work seeks to acknowledge the journey and materiality of the paint itself as an important part of this process. Carrie studied at the Lorenzo di Medici Art Institute in Florence and is currently a painter with the Turps banana art school. Her work is held in many UK and International private collections. *"My paintings are focused on bringing to the fore the depth of the human condition. Drawing from reference points in the natural world and personal history I channel these into, often large-scale, physical works. Encapsulating visceral, sensory & emotional experiences, I use my whole body as a tool for expressive mark-making, layering & storytelling."*

About Zuleika Gallery

Founded in Oxford in 2015, Zuleika Gallery's focus is on Modern British and emerging contemporary art. Founder Lizzie Collins is a history of art graduate of UCL, and a

postgraduate of the Courtauld Institute in London. She was a director and auctioneer at Bonhams, and a specialist at Christie's in 20th Century British Art, before founding Zuleika Gallery. The gallery operated in the heart of St James's from 2017- 2021 and has now taken up permanent residence in Cromwell Place, South Kensington. The Woodstock gallery opened in August 2020. The building, which dates to the early 17th Century is a short walk from the town entrance to Blenheim Palace. The gallery is committed to making art accessible and caters for both the entry level collector and the connoisseur. It also offers bespoke art advisory services for private or corporate collectors.