PRESS RELEASE

I WANT YOU TO PANIC A GROUP EXHIBITION IN RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS 28 APRIL – 22 MAY 2023 at Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock









Artists:

Eric Butcher | Marisa Culatto | Rosannagh Scarlet Esson | Andy Goldsworthy | Tom Hammick | Emma Stibbon | Ingrid Weyland

Zuleika Gallery is delighted to present *I Want You To Panic*, a group exhibition exploring the different ways in which we visualise our changing environment and what it means to be an artist living at a time of imminent climate catastrophe. Taking its title from the famous speech made by activist Greta Thunberg, *I Want You To Panic* explores artists' responses to the climate crisis through the actions they take as practitioners, as well as the messages they communicate in their work.

The exhibition's curator, artist Rosannagh Scarlet Esson explains 'we all have a moral duty to do whatever is in our power to push for a sustainable future, and I see more and more artists lending their platform to environmental causes. Art has, historically, played a key role in driving collective change, and I think we are starting to witness that in action. Artists are developing practices that counter the impact of traditional media, visualising scientific data, and amplifying the messaging behind both major and grassroots environmental campaigns. The problem is we are running out of time, and we need real, quantifiable action now - on a systemic, governmental level. Not next week, not next year, not by 2050 - now.'

Using painting, print and photography, the artists in this exhibition issue stark warnings about our time from a variety of creative perspectives: be it a reverence for nature; the use of poignant environmental metaphor; or drastic professional practice changes and sustainability commitments.

I Want You To Panic, which runs from 28 April - 22 May at Zuleika Gallery in Woodstock, includes Ingrid Weyland's expanded photography series, *Topographies of Fragility*, which highlights the irreversible impact we have on the natural world; Tom Hammick's monumental painting, *Air*, made in response to the ratification of The Paris Agreement in November 2016 and as a tribute to the 1972 dystopian science fiction film *Silent Running*; and the works of Eric Butcher, who has sacrificed making new paintings altogether, instead committing to a circular 'waste not want not' approach that recycles otherwise discarded material from previous projects.

Marisa Culatto ponders on our futile attempts to hold on to that which we have already lost in her subversive icy still lifes; Emma Stibbon and Andy Goldsworthy demonstrate their profound respect for the natural world, the former through print and the latter through photography of transient natural



sculptures; and Rosannagh Scarlet Esson paints with sequestered air pollution and materials symbolic of destruction to warn us of the trouble ahead should we choose to do nothing.

'I don't want your hope. I want you to panic. And then I want you to act.' Greta Thunberg

www.zuleikagallery.com

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Images: Courtesy of the Artist and Zuleika Gallery

Illustrated

- 1. Marisa Culatto, Flora 22, 2015, giclee print on Hannemuelle Ultra Bright 310g, 40 x 52 cm, Edition of 6
- 2. Ingrid Weyland, *Topographies of Fragility XXII Catamarca, Argentina*, 2021, collage, digital photography archival pigment print, 46 x 70 cm, Edition of 7 plus 1 artist's proof
- 3. Eric Butcher, T/R. 1026, 2023, Recycled Paint frgments: acrylic, bronze + acrylic gel on glass, 44 x 55 cm
- 4. Rosannagh Scarlet Esson, *No Planet B*, 2023, mixed media with sequestered air pollution, ashes, salt and kintsugi gold on birch wood, 110 x 110 cm

Venue

Zuleika Gallery, 6 Park Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1SP. www.zuleikagallery.com

Opening Hours

10 – 5pm Wed-Sat or by appointment – please contact philippa@zuleikagallery.com +44(0)7719060962 – to make another arrangement

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About Zuleika Gallery

Zuleika Gallery's focus is on Modern British and emerging contemporary art. The gallery was founded in 2015 and held premises in St James's London before moving to Cromwell Place in 2022. In 2020, the gallery opened premises in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, now the gallery headquarters. Public programming is a particular strength of the gallery. The gallery set up the Art programme at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford in 2017. The programme has been acclaimed by participants, faculty, staff and the wider community in Oxford and beyond. Since 2021 the gallery has curated two public spaces for Blenheim Palace - the Palace State Exhibition Suite and the Stables Café. With a regular exhibition programme in Woodstock and London, Zuleika also offers bespoke art advisory services for private or corporate collectors, using our extensive experience in the art market. We enjoy placing art in the right context, whether public or private, and helping collectors making considered choices - balancing pure visual joy with stimulating ideas, while also inspiring change through art. The gallery is committed to showing art that inspires, and to making art accessible without compromise to quality, working with both the entry level collector and the connoisseur. Zuleika Galley is a member of the Gallery Climate Coalition and is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving sustainably and gives artists a platform to explore the existential threat facing our planet.

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