

PRESS RELEASE

Me Me Me! FRANCES AVIVA BLANE

5 - 27 October 2024

Zuleika Gallery, 6 Park Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1SP

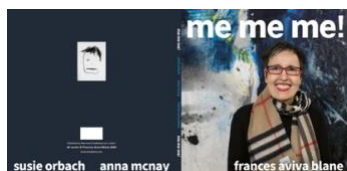


Image left: Frances Aviva Blane, *Blue on White*, 2024, oil on linen, 183 x 183 cm

Image right: Frances Aviva Blane, *Self-portrait 2*, 2024, oil on linen, 90 x 90 cm

Me Me Me! is Blane's second solo exhibition at Zuleika Gallery following '*Fragmented*' in 2020. Blane says of her latest series of heads "the portraits are concerned with disintegration of paint and personality. As a painter, I am interested in how paint 'behaves', the quality of oil paint. I am fascinated by various methods of paint application, whether traditional or innovatory. The viscosity of thick paint suggests force and power, whereas the watercolour translucence of a highly dilute substance implies an ethereality of raindrops falling. Oil paint is an organic substance and will always react differently. The portraits in this exhibition are about breakdown and disintegration".

Following this exhibition with Blane will exhibit at De Queeste Art Gallery in Belgium and EcArtspace in Greece and, to accompany the exhibition, Zuleika Gallery have compiled a book with text by renowned psychologist Dr Susie Orbach and Anna McNay. Please get in touch if you would like a copy.



About Frances Aviva Blane

Frances Aviva Blane b. 1954, is a British painter who defines her work as "concerned with fragmentation of paint and personality. I construct both abstract and figurative pictures. Figuration informs abstraction and

vice versa. I use different media, and like to keep things in a state of flux. Surprise is good. My paintings exist not to be understood but experienced."

Between 1991 and 1993 Blane studied post-graduate painting at The Slade School of Fine Art. She won an international scholarship to the Carl Djerassi Artists' Colony in California. Among other awards Blane won the Graham Hamilton Drawing Prize in 1991 and in 1999 a Jerwood Drawing Award. In 2018 she was included in the John Moores Painting Prize. Since then, she has exhibited in the Ruth Borchard self-portrait show and the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize. In 2022 Blane had an anniversary exhibition with Basil Beattie RA.

She is a well-known international artist and has recently shown with Basil Beattie and Jane McAdam Freud. In addition to exhibiting in London and Europe Blane has shown with Francis Bacon and Louise Bourgeois at De Queeste Art Gallery Belgium. In 2016/2017 Blane had a solo show at the German Embassy London, Belgravia.

In 2019 Blane published *FAB* with Dr Susie Orbach. In 2020 she produced *Who is Frances Aviva Blane?* with Dr Orbach, Tess Jaray RA and Penny Woolcock. Later Blane published *ON PAINT* with Sacha Craddock and in 2023 Blane produced *AUGUST* with Orbach comprising charcoal head drawings to accompany a Belgian show.

Additionally, she has produced *BROKEN HEADS BROKEN PAINT, MORE, EMBASSY*, and *NOTHING* with essays by artist Tess Jaray RA, diplomat Dr Peter Ammon and biographer Diana Souhami.

Her work appears in many collections including; The LSE, Jesus College Cambridge, Moorfields Eye Hospital London, The Sternberg Centre, The All Faiths Forum, The Tim Sayer Collection London, and The Doris Lockhart Collection. She is represented in London and Woodstock by Zuleika Gallery and in Belgium by De Queeste Art Gallery and online by EcArtspace. Film director Penny Woolcock. has made various films of Blane's work including - *Who is Frances Aviva Blane? and Two Metres Apart* with Susie Orbach. Woolcock also directed a film called '*Fragmented*' featuring Blane's work shown at Zuleika Gallery. Woolcock also made '*Portrait*', a film about Blane's self-portraits and drawings of Orbach made during the COVID Pandemic.

In 2021 Blane exhibited with Basil Beattie in London, and later that year with ceramicist Claudia Clare. The following year in 2022, Blane exhibited with sculptor Susan Stockwell.

-ENDS-

About Zuleika Gallery

Zuleika Gallery's focus is on Modern British and emerging contemporary art. The gallery was founded in 2015 in London by Lizzie Collins, previously a valuer at Christie's and auctioneer at Bonhams. In 2020, the gallery opened premises in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, now the gallery headquarters. 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. Using our extensive experience in the art market, we offer bespoke art advisory services for private or corporate collectors through Atelier Zuleika, our art consultancy arm. 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. Zuleika Gallery is a member of the Gallery Climate Coalition and is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving sustainably.

Venue

6 Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SP

Exhibition Opening Hours

Monday-Saturday 10 am - 5pm

Sunday 12 am - 4pm

Press Contact

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