

PRESS RELEASE

Zuleika Gallery Presents its *Summer Show* from 28 July – 23 August 2021



Illustrated works from left: Rod Craig, Tamsin Relly, Marice Cumber, Jemma Powell, Rachel Gracey RE

Full captions in notes to editors.

Artists:

Rachel Gracey RE | Rod Craig | Tamsin Relly | Jemma Powell | Marice Cumber

Zuleika Gallery is delighted to present its Summer Show from 28th July – 23rd August 2021. The exhibition will showcase the work of nationally recognised, regional emerging and mid-career contemporary artists that has been made through the pandemic. As such there is an emphasis on the natural world and domestic life. The exhibition will feature the Oxfordshire's rolling rural landscape through the work of Rod Craig. Rachel Gracey brings us the peace to be found in urban green spaces, in her new work of Oxford's Port meadow. Like life itself during the pandemic, these works are small. Tamsin Relly finds a joyful expressions in her vibrant botanical watercolours, also based in Oxfordshire, from a visit to Worton Organic Garden. Jemma Powell and Marice cumber bring us into domestic realm – the world where table tops are crowded with objects as the pressures of family life pile up physically and emotionally. Marice Cumber's ceramics bring emotional release and self-realisation through work such as 'The Cup of Time'. During a period when our own movement as individuals has been so restricted, these works serve as a reminder of the role that art can play in personal wellbeing – when life goes small, horizons are narrowed – and we have to look at our immediate surroundings. It is a reminder and celebration of the beauty that is readily available in our lives, of our capacity to be creative, and the joy and peace that that in itself can bring.

About the Artists:

Rachel Gracey R.E. (b. 1968) is an Oxford based artist inspired by nature. A contemporary printmaker, this exhibition will show-case her latest series of lithographs of Port Meadow in Oxford. Gracey's work is continually evolving from those inspired by Oxford's University Parks (2016) to her most recent solo exhibition *The Pacific Coast* at Zuleika Gallery (2020). She continues to embrace negative space in her compositions and creates joyful, chic and beautiful works with a bold energetic painterly technique. Gracey studied fine art at Bristol and specialised in printmaking. She gained an MA in Printmaking at Wimbledon School of Art, where her lithographs were awarded the Michael Putnam Prize. Her work is in Collections at the British Museum, The Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge, the Ashmolean Oxford, Guanlan Printmaking Museum and the Collection of Her Majesty the Queen. In March 2019 she was elected an RE by the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers.

Rod Craig (b. 1952) lives in Woodstock and switched to being a full-time artist in 2010 after a long career in design. Motivated by the contrast between city life and the Oxfordshire countryside, Rod has made many studies of the Blenheim Parklands. Rod has work in collections in the UK, Germany and New York and exhibits regularly. Inspiration for his work comes from Rod's passion for architecture, landscape and the elements: "*What interests me most is trying to create a mood of time and place rather than representational studies*".

Tamsin Relly (b. 1981) is a multidisciplinary artist who draws on both media imagery and first-hand observations to present impressions of natural and urban spaces in states of uncertainty or impermanence. Relly's recent work considers the origins and global migration of wild and cultivated plants whilst reflecting on the interdependent and reciprocal relationship we have with our vegetal world. Working with the fluid and unpredictable qualities of painting and printmaking, her botanical forms break down and lose focus whilst retaining an intensity of colour, evoking notions of memory and longing. South African born, Relly moved to London in 2009 and received her MA in Fine Art at City & Guilds of London Art School in 2011. Her work has been presented in solo exhibitions hosted by *Alteria Art*, *The Place Downstairs* and *Brocket Gallery* and group shows at the *Royal Academy of Arts*, *T J Boulting* and *Oliver Projects* in London. She has work held in collections including *Spier* and *Ellerman House* in South Africa and *Hogan Lovells*, *Simmons & Simmons* and the *National Maritime Museum* in London.

Jemma Powell (b. 1980) is an artist working in Oxfordshire who embraces observational preliminary drawing before working in oils, often through memory, to produce highly sensual works. Powell's technique embraces making mistakes working intuitively through the process of applying the paint, wiping it off, reapplying with brush or palette knife, scrubbing it and using her fingers to make expressive marks, "*I like the mistakes, they are the most exciting part, things start to appear and the painting takes on a life of its own.*" Powell treats her still lifes and interiors as she would a landscape, simply another way of expressing colour, shape and form. The results are beautifully composed and balanced paintings that bring the viewer into a tranquil and contented place full of scent, taste and warm sunlight. Powell is also an actress and attended Bristol University and has a BA in Drama as well as a Diploma in acting from The Oxford School of Drama. She lives in Oxfordshire with her musician husband Jack Savoretti and their two children.

Marice Cumber (b.1961) Marice returned to making ceramics after a gap of over 20 years, during which time other responsibilities and priorities filled her life. The ceramics that emerged after this gap became physical, built responses to the emotions, complexities and uncertainties that she has experienced and which are part of her life and being. These huge oversized cups, vessels and vases are confessional, bold and brave, are highly decorated and inscribed with personal messages to herself and her audience. The messages summarise moments of reflection, contemplation, encouragement and acceptance, she is observing herself and commenting on who she is and what is within her. Marice's ceramic work is made of stoneware clay, is handbuilt and uses underglazes, paints and slips for decoration and then glazed with a transparent glaze. Alongside her practice as an artist, Marice is founder and director of *Accumulate*, *The Art School for The Homeless* charity as well as one of the founders of the Crouch End Arts Festival. She was awarded the Point of Light award for *Accumulate* by the UK Prime Minister in 2015 for her work in the community. In 2018 *Creative Review* magazine made her one of their 'Creative Leaders 50'.

Illustrated:

Rachel Gracey R.E.

Thames 4, 2020

lithograph and relief print

23 x 24 cm

£240 unframed

Rod Craig

We Are Dreamers on Its Bank, 2021

mixed media on collaged paper

38 x 38 cm

£795 framed

Tamsin Relly

Everywhere I've Loved, 2021

water-based monotype on somerset paper 300gsm

38 x 28 cm

£600 unframed

Jemma Powell

Holiday Chaos

oil on board

38 x 49 cm

£1800

Marice Cumber

The Cup of Reflection

slip and underglaze decoration, glazed stoneware

19 x 15 x 21 cm

£480

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About Zuleika Gallery

Founded in Oxford in 2015 by Lizzie Collins, Zuleika Gallery's focus is on international emerging contemporary art and Modern British art. Artists represented by the gallery include Trevor Sutton, Manijeh Yadegar, Andy Barker, Rachel Gracey, Claudia Clare and Frances Aviva Blane. Lizzie Collins is a history of art graduate of UCL, and a postgraduate of the Courtauld Institute in London. Lizzie was a director and auctioneer at Bonhams, and a specialist at Christie's in 20th Century British Art, before founding Zuleika Gallery. Zuleika Gallery opened a space in St James's, the heart of London's art world, in 2017. You can find us on the 3rd Floor of Riverwide House, 6 Masons Yard, a building with historic roots in the artworld as it once housed the Indica Gallery where John Lennon and Yoko Ono first met in the 1960s. The boutique gallery space is perfect for showcasing work on a domestic scale. In August 2020 Zuleika Gallery opened a permanent space, a two-room gallery in a listed building in Woodstock, Oxfordshire. The building which dates to the late 16th/early 17th Century, is next to The Oxfordshire Museum, opposite the historic Bear Hotel and a short walk from the town entrance to Blenheim Palace, home to the Blenheim Art Foundation. Zuleika Gallery has curated the art programme for the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford since 2017 where they have held exhibitions by Nigel Hall RA, Nicola Green and Alice Kettle. The programme has been acclaimed by participants, faculty, staff and the wider community in Oxford and beyond. Since May 2021, the gallery is curating two

new public spaces at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock in the Stables Café and Palace State Rooms.

For further information, price list, or images please contact info@zuleikagallery.com or visit www.zuleikagallery.com

Zuleika Gallery open times:

Woodstock: Mondays (closed Tuesdays), Wednesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 11 pm – 4 pm

London: By Appointment.

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