

Playground Twist brings together the work of three artists whose work considers themes of childhood and play in all its guises. Whilst, at first sight, their work seems different in approach and material concerns, notions of 'childhood' play an essential role in each of their practices. The exhibition explores the imprint of childhood upon the adult artist, and the influence of making art alongside – and at times in collaboration with – children. Drawing on their own experiences as parents they explore the observed, experienced, and reflected notions of play and childhood.

The exhibition features paintings by Caroline Thomson and David Caines of varying scale and wall-based sculptures and paintings by Lindsay Mapes. The project brings into focus the influence of childhood within the field of art, a subject which has frequently been overlooked. The artists' aim to reignite some of the lost sensations of wonder, mystery, confusion and anxiety that we feel so strongly discovering the world for the first time. Can we still access those emotions now we are no longer children?

David Caines' paintings introduce us to a delightfully skewed and malicious cast of monsters, clowns, bears, pixies, trolls, dolls and children. These characters are filled with mirth and with sadness, both haunted and haunting. The paintings flirt with the vernacular of children's book illustration, and reference art history, popular culture, performance, theatre, and dance. Disinterred objects and images return – reanimated, reassembled and mutated.

Since artist **Lindsay Mapes** became a new parent her work has taken a dramatic shift. In a desire to be truthful about the reality of her new life, she has fully embraced the idea of play in relation to her paintings and sculptures. Playing with materials such as clay, glass, paint, mud and hay, Mapes is creating an instinctive body of work that is neither painting nor sculpture, rather an exuberant hybrid.

Caroline Thomson creates paintings of figures, specifically her children, immersed within a landscape. They are absorbed within their own world. Ideas around play, the nature of imagination and memory are entangled in these enchanted woodland spaces, where the children are the protagonists of their own making. The forest acts as a metaphor for retreat, transformation or the unknown, to create psychologically charged images.

David Caines biography

David Caines is a visual artist and designer based in London. He studied at Chelsea College of Art & Design between 1982–1986. In 2007, After 16 years working as a graphic designer and art director in the cultural sector, he began painting, working independently from his home studio. In 2009 he turned his house in North London into a gallery and opened it to the public for a fortnight. That year he commenced his figurative series of paintings, *Ordinary Monsters*, a long-term project exploring childhood, awkwardness, myths, fables, rituals and the ridiculous, featuring costumes, masks, basic props and referencing art history, popular culture, performance, theatre, and dance. This series has continued to evolve ever since, recently spurred on by participation in the Turps Off Site painting programme 2021-23.

www.davidcaines.co.uk

Selected exhibitions

SAFE HOUSE 2

Group Show curated by JaggerJohnson,
London, September 2023

EXETER CONTEMPORARY OPEN 2023

Group Show, Exeter Phoenix, Devon
September– November 2023

PARADISE LOST II

Group Show. They Come. They Sit. They Go.
London, June–August 2023

TURPS OFF-SITE PROGRAMME: PAINTERS 2022-23

Group Show, Thames-Side Gallery, London
May 2023

ARRESTING IMAGES

Group show, Koppel Station Project, London
December 2022

HEAD TO HEAD

Group show curated by
Giles Baker-Smith and Cedric Christie
GBS Fine Art, Wells, Somerset
October–November 2022

OPEN STUDIO

Group show, Dalston
London, July 2022

MORE BAD NEWS

Paintings by David Caines | Sculptures by Angela Hogg
Fitzrovia Gallery
London, June 2022

ALL THE SAME AGE AT DIFFERENT TIMES

Group show, Fitzrovia Gallery
London, March 2022

SIR JOHN HURT PAINTING PRIZE

Norfolk, July 2021

LAZZARO: ART DOESN'T SLEEP

Worldwide projection
23 July 2020

CAMERADAS

Mexican Embassy in London
March 2020

ANIMALS OF MANCHESTER (INCLUDING HUMANZ)

Participating artist
Manchester International Festival 2019

PAINTINGS

Solo show, Studio Anares
London, June–July 2019

EAST LONDON PAINTING PRIZE

London, April–May 2015

WHAT HAPPENS WHILE YOU'RE WAITING

Solo show, Stour Space
London, February–March 2015

UNEASY

Solo show, Beaucatcher
London, September 2012–January 2013

SUPERSINGULAR,

Solo show, BHVU
London, February–March 2011

SALON16 presents

ORDINARY MONSTERS
London, September 2010

Winner, BHVU Open

London, July 2010

SALON16 presents

WE WHO ARE NOT AS OTHERS
London, June 2009

Lindsay Mapes biography

Originally from the USA, Mapes studied Painting at San Francisco Art Institute (1996–2000) and Studio Arts Centre International, Florence (2006–07). She then went on to receive her MFA in Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL, London (2008–10). Since then, she has been based in London and Italy. She has recently participated in the Turps Off Site painting programme in London (2021–23).

On becoming a new parent Lindsay's work has taken a dramatic shift. She made a decision to include this shift, struggle, change and challenge IN her work, as this is now her life. She is exploring themes of truth. The truth about painting. The truth about surface. The truth about making and the process that evolves around that. Mistakes are made and left on view. The rawness of the material is just as active as the paint floating or sinking on/into or around the surface. She is interested in the humour, the realness, the messiness, the colour, the brightness, the bold, the joy, the sadness, the loneliness, and the dangers of parenthood... or does she mean the process of creating. Can they exist together? For Mapes the expanding of a surface is extremely important... 'painting outside the lines' per say. Are they sculptures or paintings? She is intrigued with the notion of play, while exploring mediums such as, clay, glass, paint, mud, hay and DIY material, etc. Most, if not all the materials used reference autobiographically. Colour is the focus point of her work, understanding how these combinations melt together or scream in separation. Creating space and openness in the work lets each object be itself. In this way, she is examining how a thought process can be realised in form and paint.

www.lindsaymapes.com

Selected exhibitions, editorials and residencies

MELT, Hypha Studios & Creative Land Trust, Frieze London (2023)
RAW, Atrium Space Barbican Arts Group Trust (2023)
ING DISCERNING EYE EXHIBITION, Mall Galleries (2023)
FREE ART SCHOOL E20, Hypha Studios East, (2023)
BLINK, SAFEHOUSE 1, London (2023)
A LITTLE CLOSER, Aleph Contemporary (2023)
GODDESSES, Terrace Gallery (2023)
TURPS OFF SITE, Thames-Side Studios Gallery (2023)
AWKWARD MAGNIFICANCE, Space HQ, (2023)
CONTEMPORARY BRITISH PAINTING PRIZE, UK (2022)
ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION (2022)
TELLING TALES, London, UK (2022)
ALL THE SAME AGE AT DIFFERENT TIMES, Fitzrovia Gallery, London (2022)
10 GRESHAM STREET, London (2021/2022)
EXTRAORDINARY EXTENSIONS, Channel4 Episodes 1 and 4 (2021)
WINTER GROUP SHOW, Linden Hall Gallery, Kent, U.K. (2020)
Trelex Artist in Residence. Geneva, Switzerland (2019)
BRITISH VOGUE ARTIST GALLERY (October, November and December 2019)
NEW BEGINNINGS, Porthminster Gallery, St.Ives (2019)
INSIDE THE STUDIO, Saatchi Art, (2019)
ARTIST OF THE DAY, Saatchi Art, (2019)
THE OTHER ART FAIR, Los Angeles, (2018)
COLORE, SACI Gallery, Florence, Italy (2018);
THE OTHER ART FAIR, London (2017, 2016, 2015)
THE MARMITE PRIZE FOR PAINTING, London (2016 and 2012)

Caroline Thomson biography

Caroline Thomson is an artist and MA Fine Art graduate of Chelsea College of Art (2003) and BA Fine Art Painting graduate of Kingston University (1998). She recently participated in the Turps Off Site painting programme (2019-22). Her work is held in numerous private collections both nationally and internationally.

Thomson creates paintings of figures, specifically her children, immersed within a landscape. They are absorbed within their own world. Ideas around childhood, the nature of imagination and memory are entangled in these enchanted spaces, where the children are the protagonists of their own making. Thomson draws on the rich artistic and literary history of woodland and forests which act as a metaphor for retreat, transformation or the unknown to create psychologically charged paintings.

The works range in scale from small intimate works to larger more immersive paintings. Drawn from personal photographs the paintings emerge from thin washes of oil paint combined with a rhythmic calligraphic line, allowing light and colour to create atmosphere. As the painting evolves it transcends its photographic origins allowing ideas of time and memory to become embedded within the layers of paint.

www.carolinethomsonart.com

Selected exhibitions and prizes

THE HARI ART PRIZE EXHIBITION, Hari Hotel, London, 2023

A GENEROUS SPACE 3, Huddersfield Art Gallery, 2023

THIS YEARS MODEL III, Studio 1-1 2023

JACKSONS PAINTING PRIZE, longlisted artist 2023

ART ON A POSTCARD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

selected by Louise Fitzjohn, Fitzrovia Gallery 2023

Anomie Publishing, ANOMIE COLLECTIONS 1 2023

Art Car Boot Fair, IT'S A PATTERN, 2022

LONDON PAINT CLUB, Selects Vol 2, London, 2022

OXMARKET CONTEMPORARY OPEN, Oxmarket Contemporary, Chichester 2022

TURPS OFF-SITE LEAVERS SHOW, Thameside Studios Gallery London, 2022

DULWICH FESTIVAL ARTIST OPEN HOUSE 2022, Copleston Road Studio London 2022

JACKSONS PAINTING PRIZE, shortlisted artwork 2022

ALL THE SAME AGE AT DIFFERENT TIMES, Fitzrovia Gallery, London 2022

ART CAR BOOT FAIR, Electric Edition and Queen and Country, 2021

BLINK, Room Share Safehouse 1 London 2021

NO FORMAT GALLERY PAINTING OPEN, London 2021

THIS YEAR'S MODEL PART III, Studio 1-1, London, 2021

THIS YEAR'S MODEL PART II, Studio 1-1, London, 2020

ING DISCERNING EYE, Mall Galleries, London, 2019

LYNN PAINTER-STAINER PRIZE, Mall Galleries, London 2019 and 2018