

Press Release
6 October 2023



WOMEN IN ART FAIR ANNOUNCES EXHIBITORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Women in Art Fair | 11-14 October

Mall Galleries

The Mall, London SW1

womeninartfair.com | @womeninartfair

Women in Art Fair brings a dynamic group of exciting and innovative galleries, collectives and artists for its inaugural art fair at London's Mall Galleries, this October.

A new initiative, WIAF is dedicated to redressing the gender imbalance in the art industry and will take over all three spaces at Mall Galleries (totalling 450 sqm). The West Gallery houses a booth-style art fair; the East Gallery presents 'Unnatural Women', a curated exhibition, and the North Gallery displays an exhibition of work by artists under the theme 'The World is a Family' many of whom were selected via an open call.

NEW FACES

New to the London art fair scene is **Black Circle Gallery** founded by gallerist and art collector, Theresa Roberts, Jamaican Ambassador for Arts and Culture. Her exhibition, 'Jamaica Making' was held at the Victoria Gallery & Museum, Liverpool last year. Her stand will be a showcase of talented female Jamaican artists past and present working in all media, and covering themes such as identity, culture, nature and spirituality. Roberts says: "I'm so proud to showcase the breadth of creativity amongst Jamaican women at this prestigious fair."



Nova Williams, *Brown Skin Girl*, Oil on Cradled Panel, 18" x 24 cm. Courtesy Black Circle Gallery.

FEMALE PLACES

Hampstead gallery **Zebra One** used to be neighbours with Paula Rego and her artworks, along with those of British giantesses Bridget Riley and Tracey Emin, are on their books. For WIAF the gallery is showing the nine winners of the Women in Art Prize 2023. Sussex based **WIA Gallery** (Women in Art) was launched earlier this year by curator Sarah Norris. It has an exciting programme, with an exhibition of new work by celebrated painter and Neo Naturalist Jennifer Binnie opening this month.

Virginia Damsta, co-founder of Rifle-maker has opened a new dealership **Virginia Visual Arts** and is showing works by Chinese artist Wen Wu and 'The Last Supper with Women' by Alison Jackson.

Cynthia Corbett Gallery presents a specially commissioned limited edition silkscreen print of Queen Elizabeth II by Deborah Azzopardi, and works by two alumni of Young Masters: Isabelle van Zeijl and Elaine Woo MacGregor.



Alice O'Malley, *Nicole Eisenman*, NYC2000, Silver Gelatin Print, 14 x 10 " Framed (Ed. 10). Courtesy John Marchant Gallery.

WOMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WIAF Spotlight is a showcase of exceptionally talented women artists who have been invited by the WIAF committee. These include Cameroon-born, London-based photographer and artist Violeta Sofia whose works are included in the National Portrait Gallery's ongoing exhibition, *Reframing Narratives: Women in Portraiture*; Anya Sand, whose multimedia abstract artworks have been shown in The Houses of Parliament and the UN HQ in New York, and paintings by the Irish artist Emma Tweedie and works by the latest makers at **Moorcroft Design Studio**.

UNSAFE SPACES

Gallerist, curator and art director **John Marchant** cut his teeth in the international art world working for the celebrated female artist and activist, Nan Goldin, director and star of the recent film 'All the Beauty and the Bloodshed'. For WIAF, the gallery is presenting painting, photography and installation/sculpture to include a large painting by Alison McKenna, three large format, framed Super 8 NYC film stills by Irish artist Vivienne Dick, framed black and white portraits of East Village luminaries by American photographer Alice O'Malley, and a hand-painted sculptural slogan dress by recent Whitechapel exhibitor Delaine Le Bas. Greg Rook, director of **Blackbird Rook** gallery specialises in modern and contemporary fine art. He also runs crypto art gallery Blackbird, which works with contemporary artists who have a critical and thoughtful practise away from the world of digital art. Using the SuperRare Spaces platform, and the crypto art audience which that provides, artists are able to reimagine their work and take it in unexpected directions.





Book Club by Zoe Spowage, on show with Blackbird Rook Gallery.

UNNATURAL WOMEN

The East Gallery exhibition, titled 'Unnatural Women', focuses on work by female artists that explores our ambivalent relationship with the natural world and bodily nature. There is a mix of painting, sculpture, print and digital, as well as textiles, traditionally seen as a female craft, and technological work, which is still largely perceived as a male practice. Curated by artist Rowena Easton, the show features celebrated names such as Paula Rego and Jean Cooke alongside established artists such as Marcelle Hanselaar, Geraldine Swayne and Alice Kettle, plus emerging talents Abigail Norris and Elissa Jane Diver. Running alongside the physical exhibition there is an online 'Unnatural Women' show with Blackbird, which features crypto art by contemporary women artists. [Read Unnatural Women Press Release](#)



Elizabeth Meek, *The Parisian Girl*, Oil on canvas board, 27 x 44cm. Featured in the Open Call exhibition.

The World is A Family

The North Gallery exhibition shows over 140 works by 82 women artists chosen by the WIAF committee from over 1000 submissions to an open call.

Women in Art Fair is an ongoing project with inclusivity and diversity at its core, which sets out to promote the work and career of women artists. All works are for sale.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

The WIAF Team

Jacqueline Harvey, Director

WIAF is directed by author, educator, journalist, broadcaster and award-winning businesswoman, **Jacqueline Harvey**. A graduate of Goldsmiths, University of London, with a degree in Philosophy and Sociology, Jacqueline's extensive career includes working for nine years as Managing Director of Art Strategies, a Mayfair gallery which championed inclusivity and diversity through a successful exhibition, education and international fair programme. She has worked at many art fairs, including START, London Art Fair, Masterpiece, Art Basel and Art Bahrain. In addition to her career in the arts, Jacqueline has written books on health and wellbeing and is regularly interviewed on the BBC and in the national press. She has her own weekly programme on Women's Radio.

Jacqueline Harvey says: *"The world has been through incredible changes in recent years and women, as artists, have continued to create and help maintain stability in these volatile times. We need to celebrate the journey we have been on and look at the new paths and opportunities we are going to create for future generations."*

Rowena Easton, Curator

Rowena graduated from Goldsmiths' legendary MFA Art Writing course in 2011. She is Art Director of ROSA Magazine and, as an artist, has exhibited, published and performed widely in the UK and internationally, working across various media, particularly text, installation and performance. Rowena has shown in venues such as the Royal Academy, Estorick Collection, Bluecoat Liverpool, Freud Museum, Brighton Dome, John Hansard Gallery, QUAD Derby, The Architecture Centre Bristol, Center for Architecture NYC, Theatre Academy of Finland, Tuned City Berlin, Goethe Institute Bangkok; and has had work broadcast on Channel 4 and Resonance FM.

Committee: Co-founder of iconic gallery Rifle-maker, **Virginia Damtsa** is a well-known art dealer, gallerist, curator and artists' agent. **Katrina Aleksa Ryemill** is an art advisor and co-founder of The Association of Women in the Arts (AWITA). **Cynthia Corbett** is Director of The Cynthia Corbett Gallery and Founder of The Young Master's Art Prize. **Susan J Mumford** is Founder and CEO of the Association of Women Art Dealers (AWAD) and a sector-supporting entrepreneur for the art market.

Katrina Aleksa Ryemill says: *"The Women in Art Fair is a fantastic platform to showcase some of the amazingly talented female artists active today. Whilst there has never been a shortage of talented women artists there has, sadly, been an historical lack of discussion and exposure compared to the attention that the art industry have given male artists. Any fair that is set up to provide a platform for any under represented group to shine should always be celebrated - and most importantly, enjoyed! I am hugely honoured to have been asked to be part of the committee of choosing works shown at the fair this year."*

Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1

Managed by the Federation of British Artists, Mall Galleries is located in the cultural heart of London's thriving arts and heritage district on The Mall, between Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square. Behind the elegant facade is over 450sqm of fully equipped exhibition space of unparalleled scale for its location. For over fifty years, it has served as a national focal point for figurative art, hosting exhibitions by eminent Royal art societies and

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Women in Art Fair

11-14 October 2023
Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1
www.womeninartfair.com | @womeninartfairofficial

Opening Hours

Wednesday 11 October – 10am – 6pm
Thursday 12 October – 10am – 7pm
Friday 13 October – 10am – 6pm
Saturday 14 October – 10am – 4pm

Tickets: <https://womeninartfair.com/tickets/>

Panel Discussion

Women In Art Fair | Fair Play

Date: Friday 13 October 2023
Time: 11:30 am
Venue: Women in Art Fair, Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1

Panelists include:

Virginia Damtsa, Director, Virginia Visual Arts
Katrina Aleksa, Association of Women in the Arts (AWITA)
Cynthia Corbett, Director, Young Masters
Elena Shchukina, Director, Art Strategies

The event will be chaired by Susan Mumford Founder of Association of Women Art Dealers (AWAD).

Free to all ticket holders on Friday 13 October.

WIAF PARTNERS

The Fair is grateful to Arts Council England and The Chartwell Group for sponsorship. Women in Art Fair is partnered with the Association of Women Art Dealers (AWAD), Association of Women in the Arts (AWITA), Business Library (British Library), The Twenty Two, Cynthia Corbett Gallery, Young Masters, The Arts Club London, Aesthetica Magazine and ROSA Magazine.

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Media information:

Press Contacts: Jessica Wood and Holly Finch press@womeninartfair.com

Press Images: <https://bit.ly/WIAFPressImages>

VIP and Press View: 11 October 10am -12noon (guest list or ticket holders)

Launch Reception: 11 October 6pm-9pm (guest list or ticket holders)

Press accreditation: email press@womeninartfair.com or contact + 44 (0)7939 226988

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