

Press Release
15 September 2023



**WOMEN IN ART FAIR ANNOUNCES
ITS CURATED EXHIBITION:
*UNNATURAL WOMEN***

**LONDON
11-14 OCTOBER 2023**



Elissa Jane Diver, Deer Stalking (detail), 2022. Cyanotype on linen, toned with oak tannins.

Seminal names in women's art are to be shown alongside emerging talent at Mall Galleries' East Gallery in a show exploring bodily nature and landscape.

womenartfair.com [@womenartfairofficial](https://twitter.com/womenartfairofficial)

Titled *Unnatural Women* an exhibition curated by artist and writer **Rowena Easton** will run as part of the inaugural **Women in Art Fair** the first art fair dedicated to redressing gender imbalance in the art industry. The show features seminal artists, such as **Paula Rego** and **Jean Cooke** alongside established contemporary names like **Marcelle Hanselaar**, **Alice Kettle** and **Geraldine Swayne** plus emerging talents including **Angelina May Davis**, **Abigail Norris** and **Elissa Jane Diver**.

Curator Rowena Easton says: "I'm interested in humankind's ambivalent relationship with nature. I want to explore how we understand and construct wilderness and landscape, particularly how women are placed and understand themselves, and their bodily nature, in relation to the natural world. 'Natural beauty', 'natural birth', 'unnatural instincts', 'wild child', (*You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman*), even... all those topiarized notions of unmanageable womanhood are disrupted by this group of *Unnatural Women*."

The exhibition will feature a mix of painting, sculpture, photography and print, as well as textiles, a traditionally female artform, and technological work, which is still largely perceived as a male practice.





Geraldine Swayne, *Circus Spankers*, 2016. Enamel on Aluminium, 13 x 10cm.

WOMEN IN ART FAIR

WIAF's mission is to create a positive global platform from which female artists, curators and gallerists are given an opportunity to show their work and contribute to the developing exchange of ideas around gender, sexuality and culture.

WIAF will occupy all three spaces at **Mall Galleries** (totalling 450sqm). The **West Gallery** will house a booth-style art fair, the **East Gallery** a curated exhibition titled *Unnatural Women*, and the **North Gallery** an exhibition of work selected via an Open Call.

[Read the general press release for WIAF here](#)



Angelina May Davis, *If only it could stay like this.* 2021. 152x240cm, Oil on Canvas, Courtesy of the artist and Division of Labour ©

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 Riflemaker, **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 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."*

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

Women in Art Fair

11-14 October 2023
Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1
www.womeninartfair.com
[@womeninartfairofficial](https://twitter.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/>

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, The Arts Club London, Aesthetica Magazine and ROSA Magazine.

Mall Galleries

The Mall, London SW1
mallgalleries.org.uk

Managed by the [Federation of British Artists](http://www.federationofbritishartists.org), 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 welcoming a range of activities from art fairs, auctions, solo, group exhibitions and more.

GALLERIES

The final list of participating galleries will be released late September. Women in Art Fair encourages diversity and international galleries. All expressions of interest should be sent to info@womeninartfair.com

PRESS CONTACTS

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PRIVATE VIEW AND LAUNCH RECEPTION 11 October 6pm-9pm

[Please book tickets and RSVP for the press/private view of Women in Art Fair here](#)

Note: there is a quite preview at 9am-11am on 11 October before the fair opens for journalists. Email us at press@womeninartfair.com if you would like to attend this.

