

PRESS RELEASE

The Art of Painting

The Art of Painting brings together new works from 18 contemporary London based artists. The paintings in this exhibition demonstrate a strong personal approach to working within figurative and image-based painting. Half of the artists who are in this new exhibition of paintings, presented their work two years ago in the exhibition *The Third of May* in 2019 at the Copeland Gallery. That original group has now reassembled and are joined by nine new artists in *The Art of Painting*. Together the artists return to the original venue of the Copeland Galleries in Peckham in August to present their work.

The Art of Painting comes after a year of waiting, during which time much has changed. What has not changed is the pleasure and necessity of seeing paintings in the flesh. A great deal has been made of the ability to hold virtual exhibitions but what is clear is what is amiss; the physical encounter with the presence of painting. That which existed as the concentrated channel between the artist and the work becomes the connecting relationship the work has to the viewer. This cannot be mediated, it must be seen and experienced. The singularity of the decisions made of scale, texture, gesture and the complexity of colour cannot be reduced to a virtual world as these things are lost.

The painters have been busy during this period, we hope that this exhibition will be a call for the re-engagement and celebration of *The Art of Painting*.

Artists: **Suzanne Baker - Trevor Burgess – Jake Clark – Nelson Diplexcito – Marilyn Hallam – Trevor Jones – Gavin Lockheart – Max Mason – Chris Orr – Howard Rogers – Mike Silva – Neal Tait – Covadonga Valdes – Alex Veness – Eleanor Watson – George Wills – Josephine Wood – Nicholas Wyatt**

Preview Day: **Friday 6th August 2021, 12:00 – 23:00**

Gallery Open: **5th to 8th August 2021, 11:00 – 20:00**

Copeland Gallery, Unit 91 Copeland Park, 133 Copeland Road, Peckham, London, SE15 3SN