

UP CLOSE
and personal
08-09-23 —
— 30-09-23
Private View
07-09-23
6 — 8PM

HARICOT
GALLERY

David Surman
Mingxuan Zhang
Alfie Kungu
Maisie Cousins
Yulia Zinshtein
András Ladocsi
Kevin Ford
Jessica Rose Bird

Up Close and Personal

Haricot Gallery is thrilled to announce its upcoming group show, 'Up Close and Personal,' taking place from September 8th to September 30th. This show comprises of paintings, works on paper, and photography by artists: David Surman, Alfie Kungu, Maisie Cousins, András Ladocsi, Jessica Rose Bird, Kevin Ford, Mingxuan Zhang, and Yulia Zinshtein.

The exhibition weaves together the creative narratives of these eight artists, inviting you to delve into a world where intimate details and profound closeness take centre stage. At a time when our attention often gravitates towards the grand and sweeping, this exhibition serves as a captivating reminder to pause, lean in, and immerse ourselves in the intricate beauty of life's minutiae.

Each artist brings their unique perspective of looking deeply and intimately at the world around us. Their artworks don't skim the surface; they demand your attention, allowing you to explore their intricacies. The works contrast, complement and intersect with each other. David Surman,

Kevin Ford, and Alfie Kungu exude a sense of humour and playfulness, engaging in their whimsical narratives. The pieces by András Ladocsi, Jessica Rose Bird, and Yulia Zinshtein unveil a world of fragility and delicacy, evoking emotions that resonate on a tender and profound level. Standing in stark juxtaposition are the shockingly beautiful works of Mingxuan Zhang and Maisie Cousins, which challenge conventional aesthetics and stir a mixture of awe and disturbance. This dynamic fusion stands as a testament to the raw, unfiltered emotions that only the experience of getting 'Up Close and Personal' creates.

'Up Close and Personal' encourages you to immerse yourself in the unique perspectives of each artist. It's an opportunity to truly see and take the time to look, uncovering the intimate details that often surround us. By engaging with these nuances, we unveil the hidden beauty that lies within the world around us.

David Surman

David Surman is a London-based artist with a focus on painting and drawing. He has earned a global reputation for his figurative artworks, which intricately weaves together animal, plant, and human forms to celebrate their vitality. Surman explores the projection of human experiences onto the natural world. He integrates elements of the pathetic fallacy and cartoon aesthetics. Through his art, animal forms are skilfully infused with sincerity, irony, liveliness, and profound psychological undertones.

Mingxuan Zhang

Born in China, Mingxuan Zhang currently lives and works between London and Hong Kong. Mingxuan holds a BA in Fine Arts from Central Saint Martins, London, UK, and has recently graduated from the Royal College of Art in London. Zhang's artistic practice revolves around exploring hidden information within layers and opacity. Through her manipulation of materials such as stockings and fabrics, Zhang creates organic, abstract images that often evoke a sense of intimacy and unio mystica.

Alfie Kungu.

Born in Yorkshire, Alfie Kungu's work is iconically playful, brought to life through a bold, vibrant palette. His pieces often feature distorted characters, invoking a nostalgic familiarity. Blending figurative and abstract elements, Kungu continuously experiments with techniques and materials, resulting in a distinct, contemporary visual language.

Maisie Cousins.

Born in the UK, Maisie Cousins is one of the country's most captivating photographers. Her imagery, characterised by its vivid and unsettling quality, captures a diverse range of subjects including food, flowers, decay, waste, and the human body. This amalgamation gives rise to work that seamlessly weaves between the comedic and the grotesque. With a degree in Fine Art Photography from Brighton University, Cousins has become synonymous with her uniquely sensual visuals that possess the ability to both allure and repel observers.

Yulia Zinshtein.

Yulia Zinshtein was born in Philadelphia to Ukrainian parents, and relocated to Moscow at the age of 10. Through creating art she felt more connected to her surroundings, for a way to make something permanent in a life full of temporary arrangements. While her younger years were marked by being the Russian in Philadelphia and the American in Moscow, this proved to be fruitful for developing her art practice. Zinshtein's works portray a world of longing to be somewhere else while awaiting for time to pass, veiled with the performative act of our identities and desires.

Andras Ladocsi.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, András Ladocsi was a top-level swimmer during his adolescence before turning towards an artistic career. A photographer and film maker, in 2021-2022, he collaborated with American author-composer Frank Ocean. He has recently completed his studies at the Royal College of Art in London. His work focusing on bodily expression has already been rewarded: he won the American Vintage Award at the 2020 Hyères Festival.

Kevin Ford.

Kevin Ford, (b. 1975, Stamford, Conn.) lives and works in Norwalk, Connecticut. He received his BFA from Boston University and his MFA from Yale University. Ford is interested in using a combination of delicate brushwork and loose airbrushing, as he blends the languages of Spanish still lifes, cartoons, and colour field abstraction to bring a sense of historic urgency to overlooked, everyday objects.

Jessica Rose Bird.

Jessica Rose Bird is an award-winning Scottish artist and fashion illustrator based in London. Jessica worked in the fashion industry before becoming a full-time artist in 2018. Bird's work often focusses on the moving body and capturing its brief moments of stillness. Her work explores capturing the pace of the people and objects she draws, ensuring everything is alive through her spontaneous, improvised strokes.



Andras Ladocsi
'Beach'
104(h) x 82(w)cm
Handmade Darkroom Print on Fujicolor Crystal Archive Digital Paper
2023



David Surman
'My Blue Flower'
60(h) x 50(w)cm
Acrylic on Canvas
2022



Yulia Zinshtein
'Meet Me at The Back of The Movie Theatre'
122(h) x 93(w)cm
Acrylic, oil, pastel on canvas
2023



Maisie Cousins
'Cervix'
42(h) x 29.7(w)cm
Archival Pigment Print on Hahnemuhle Pearl Paper

Notes to Editors

Up Close and Personal

Featuring David Surman, Mingxuan Zhang, Alfie Kungu, Maisie Cousins, Yulia Zinshtein, Andras Ladocsi, Kevin Ford & Jessica Rose Bird

**Private View: 7th September, 18:00-20:00
Haricot Gallery, 2 Blackall Street, EC2A 4AD**

**Opening hours: Wednesday to Saturday: 11:00-18:00
Exhibition Dates: Friday 8th September - Saturday 30th September**

**Additional information can be found online at
www.haricotgallery.com.**

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