

WORKPLACE

Closer and Further Away **Laura Lancaster**

4 June - 30 July

Opening

Friday 4 June,
12pm - 8pm

Workplace

40 Margaret Street
W1G 0JH
London



Laura Lancaster, *On The Brink*, 2021, Acrylic on linen, 40 x 50 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Workplace

Workplace is pleased to present *Closer and further away*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by British artist Laura Lancaster in which she focuses on the reinterpretation of classical subjects involving the female figure. Mostly executed during national lockdowns, the paintings in the show reflect the artist's yearning for space and freedom, her reaction to confinement and her re-evaluation of the relationship between individuals and their physical environments.

The new body of work presented in *Closer and further away*, continues Lancaster's exploration of the tension between figuration and abstraction whilst focusing specifically on the portrayal of women. The large brushstrokes and quick manipulation of paint blur the distinctions between the female figures depicted and their context. The women in these paintings, which are at once appearing and disappearing amongst their surroundings, are depicted asleep, in front of mirrors and in pastoral settings as to reference classical motifs that have been reproduced in painting and sculpture throughout history. However, the removal of detailed visual information, and a push in the direction of abstraction, occludes the voyeurism conventionally associated with historical, conventional, representation of the female figure to allow for a new perspective.

Beginning her painting process by drawing from photographs of unknown people in unfamiliar places, Lancaster aims not to copy the photos she finds but rather to encapsulate the feeling that she gets when she looks at them. From each drawing, she makes a painting, and then from that painting, another painting, and so on. The process is one that moves gradually in two directions, away from direct visual replication, and towards an accurate distillation of the feelings derived from the source image. Lancaster's new works attempt to occupy the space between the accurate representation of the figure and the emotional territory of abstraction, being at once *Closer and Further Away* from either approach.

Laura Lancaster was born in Hartlepool, UK in 1979. She lives in Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.

She has shown her work in exhibitions worldwide including Laura Lancaster, New Art Gallery Walsall; A Stranger's Dream, Sargent's Daughters, New York; Laura Lancaster, Wooson Gallery, Korea; Shapeshifter, Workplace London, UK. Group Exhibitions include: Dismaland, Weston-super-Mare, UK; Private Utopia, Tokyo Station Gallery, Japan; Museum of Art, Kochi, Japan; Itami City Museum of Art, Japan; Prefectural Museum of Art, Japan; Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland; Museum of Modern Art St Etienne; Glasgow International; October - Salon, Belgrade Palazzo Della Arte, Napoli; Accademia d'Ungheria a Roma; BALTIC 39, Newcastle, UK; John Moores Prize, Liverpool, UK.

Lancaster's work is represented in numerous international collections including The British Council Collection; New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK; Nerman Museum, Kansas, USA; The Government Art Collection, UK and numerous private collections worldwide. Her work has recently been published in Vitamin P3: New Perspectives in Painting by Phaidon Press, and Picturing People by Charlotte Mullins for Thames and Hudson.

Workplace was founded in 2003 in Gateshead, initially developing out of the artist-led scene in the region. In October 2020, the gallery opened his second space in a beautiful 19th Century red brick building in the heart of London's historic West End and just a stone's throw away from the Mayfair gallery district. The gallery now represents established and emerging artists from the North of England and abroad.

The exhibition will be open Wednesday - Friday, 12pm - 6pm. In order to protect the health and safety of our staff and visitors, we have put new measurements in place. All visitors will be required to wear a mask; hand sanitiser and disposable masks will be provided on site. Booking is not required but at busy period visitors might be asked to queue outside to ensure social distancing is observed in the gallery space.

For all press inquiries please contact: press@workplace.art

For all sales inquiries please contact: sales@workplace.art