

WORKPLACE

The Blue Hour

Aglaé Bassens | Hazel Brill | Cathleen Clarke
Olivia Jia | Laura Lancaster | Rachel Lancaster
Julia Maiuri | Prae Pupityastaporn
Sarah Schlesinger | Jill Tate

14 July – 2 September

Opening Reception:
Thursday 13 July, 6.30 - 9pm

WORKPLACE

50 Mortimer Street
London, W1W 7RP



Cathleen Clarke, *Strands of Sleep*, 2023, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 30x24 in, Courtesy of the artist and Margot Samel, NY

Workplace is pleased to present *The Blue Hour*, an exhibition of work by ten female artists: Aglaé Bassens, Hazel Brill, Cathleen Clarke, Olivia Jia, Laura Lancaster, Rachel Lancaster, Julia Maiuri, Prae Pupityastaporn, Sarah Schlesinger and Jill Tate.

The blue hour (l'heure bleue) is a period of twilight when the sun is at a specific position beneath the horizon and the sunlight's blue wavelengths dominate the sky. It holds a unique ambiance and energy, often evoking a range of emotions and psychological states – solitude, introspection, vulnerability, tension, mystery or fear. It brings a heightened sensitivity to the nuances of one's thoughts and emotions, and a blurring of the boundaries between the realms of the conscious and the subconscious.

Within the exhibition, the artists explore the contemplative space that the blue hour offers and present a unique female perspective of solitude and intimacy either from an enclosed domestic interior or from isolated immersion in the outside world.

Olivia Jia's new painting *Page unfolded (Audubon great tern)*, expands upon the intricate nuances of environments encountered at night. Painted using what Jia describes as a 'nocturnal' palette, the painting is encountered by the viewer as if trapped between a state of sleep and awake.

Strands of Sleep by **Cathleen Clarke** forms part of her new ongoing series of *Sleepover paintings*. Rendered in soft dreamlike tones, the painting depicts figures asleep amongst dark green foliage. Lit from the milky glow of the moonlight, the figures dissolve into darkness, inviting viewers to delve into the mysterious landscape of the subconscious realm.

Aglaé Bassens presents a poignant depiction of everyday life in her painting *Night Laundry*. Here, Bassens portrays a mundane laundry line, silhouetted against the soft glow from a domestic window. The object takes on a new significance, becoming a poetic symbol of personal histories and the quiet labour of everyday life.

Prae Pupityastaporn draws from the overlooked minutiae of daily life. By intertwining streams of the subconscious, Pupityastaporn offers dreamlike insight into the flux and fragility of memory, both personal and shared. Her paintings demonstrate the shifting possibilities of shared emotional fabrics, proving how each of our complex internal states can colour perceptions of the external world.

Jill Tate delves into the concept of home and shared personal space. Tate constructs scale models and makes paintings of these sparse scenes in warm hues of terracotta. Through this process and use of light and colour, Tate explores the psychological constructs of home, whether it be a place of sanctuary or of confinement.

Hazel Brill has taken a recognisable domestic item, the cuckoo clock, and rendered it dysfunctional. Made out of red glass and metal, the clock references the interiors of gothic horror fiction. Darkly surreal, this object pertains to the functioning of the mind, suggesting a descent into the irrational and subversive.

Sarah Schlesinger depicts obstructed landscapes of hedges and bushes, set against darkening and brooding skies in a monochromatic palette. Initially reminiscent of idyllic English country gardens, Schlesinger's work transcends representation creating mystique and palpable tension, prompting viewers to unravel the veiled meanings or narratives beyond that which is presented.

Taken from photographs of moving images, **Rachel Lancaster's** two new paintings evoke a sense of dramatic anticipation. Both figures are surrounded by darkness, closing them off from the viewer and making the canvas their own solitary space. The figures simultaneously appear and dissolve, and Lancaster achieves both stillness and suspense through what she describes as '*loud silence*'.

Julia Maiuri references the cinematic, paying homage to film noir and horror movies. *Letter* and *Sorry I missed you*, are two new works by Maiuri, each using stills from the 1945 film *My Name is Julia Ross*. By capturing moments of dissolution, Maiuri infuses her subjects with a sense of thwarted pursuit and ambiguity, creating a distinct and transitory dreamlike atmosphere.

The work of **Laura Lancaster** explores the boundaries of representation and memory. These new works feature solitary figures, suspended in a state of flux, and painted in ethereal light of the blue hour. Featuring an anonymous figure, the paintings evoke a sense of quiet introspection, vulnerability and an invitation to explore the depths of one's own memories.

Aglaé Bassens (b.1986, Belgium) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Bassens has a BA in Fine Art from the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford University (2007) and an MFA in Fine Art Painting from the Slade School of Fine Art, London (2011). Her work has been exhibited internationally, with solo presentations at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; HESSE FLATOW, New York, NY; 12.26, Dallas, TX; Nars Foundation, Brooklyn, NY; CRUSH Curatorial, New York, NY; and Cabin Gallery, London; as well as group exhibitions at Gowen Contemporary, Geneva; STEMS Gallery, Paris; The Valley, Taos, NM; and Workplace, London. Bassens's work is in the permanent collections of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami and Colección SOLO, Madrid, Spain.

Hazel Brill (b. 1991, London, UK) lives and works in London and Newcastle UK. Brill is currently studying for her PhD at Newcastle University, and received her MFA in Fine Art Media from the Salce School of Art London (2017). Selected solo presentations include *Pup & Blubber*, Block 336, Brixton (2019); *Shonisaurus Popularis*, Turf Projects (2018); *Artagon III*, Paris, France (2017). Group exhibitions include *Night Station*, Whitechapel Open, Whitechapel Gallery London; *A Commitment*, MIT online screening, USA; *Realm*, Collaborative installation, Southwark Park Galleries, London. Awards include *Artagon III Award* (2017), *Boise Travel Scholarship Award* (2017), *Connect 2016 Mentor Award with Bedwyr Williams* (2016), *The Hatton Art Prize* (2014).

Cathleen Clarke (b. 1988 Chicago, USA) currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Clarke gained her Bachelor of Fine Art in Painting and Drawing at the Academy of Art University, San Francisco in 2014. Solo exhibitions include *Hungry Soul*, Nathalie Karg Galler, Viewing Room, New York, NY; *Whatever Hour You Woke There Was a Door Shutting*, Fou Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; *If You Ever Make It Home* 625 Sutter Gallery, San Francisco, CA. Group exhibitions include *BREATHLESS* Myriam Chair Gallery, Paris; *Evening Shadow*, Make Room Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. Grants and Awards include NYFA City Artist Corps Grant (2021); Hooper Prize Finalist Award, Spring (2018).

Olivia Jia (b. 1994, Chicago, IL) lives and works in Philadelphia. She received a BFA from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA in 2017. Honors include the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship to attend the Yale Norfolk Summer School of Art in 2015 and the President's Award at the University of the Arts. Solo exhibitions include *Perimeter* at Margot Samel, New York, NY (2023) and *Ex Libris* at Workplace, London, UK (2022). Selected group shows include *To whom do I owe the power behind my voice?*, curated by Tally de Orellana, Commonweal, Philadelphia, PA (2023); *To be a giant and keep quiet about it*, Margot Samel, New York, NY (2022); *Painting As Is II*, Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York, NY (2022); *Kaleidoscope*, Workplace, London, UK (2022); *To be a giant and keep quiet about it*, Yee Society, Hong Kong (2022); *An Exchange of Shifting Atmospheres*, curated by Leslie Moody Castro and Ricky Yanas, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Philadelphia, PA (2022).

Laura Lancaster (b.1979, Hartlepool, UK) lives and works in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. She completed her BA in Fine Art at Northumbria University. Recent solo exhibitions include *Closer and Further Away*, Workplace, London, UK; *Inside Mirror*, Wooson Gallery, South Korea; *Running Towards Nothing*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles; *Laura Lancaster*, New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK; and *A Stranger's Dream*, Sargent's Daughters, New York, NY. She has been included in group exhibitions at Marlborough Gallery, London, UK; Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, Sunderland, UK; New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK; Royal Academy, London, UK; Museum of Art, Kochi, Japan; Itami City Museum of Art, Hyogo/Osaka, Japan. Lancaster's work is included in The British Council Collection, UK; New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK; Nerman Museum, Kansas, USA; The Government Art Collection, UK; Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, USA.

Rachel Lancaster (b.1979, Hartlepool, UK) lives and works in Newcastle Upon Tyne. She has exhibited widely and taken part in numerous projects, performances and artist residencies both nationally and internationally. In 2015, she was invited to be Artist-in-Residence at Alewife Brook Road in New York, the former residence and studio of Elaine De Kooning. In 2020, Lancaster was granted a CVAN Creative Spaces Residency. She was shortlisted for the Contemporary British Painting Prize in 2018, and the Beep Painting Prize in 2020. In 2022 Lancaster was the joint winner of the Beep Painting Prize and winner of the Ares Mosaic Art Award.

Julia Maiuri (b. 1991, Michigan, USA) currently lives and works in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She received her MFA from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (2022), and her BFA from Wayne State University, Detroit (2013). Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, with a recent solo exhibition at Make Room, LA (2023) and Gallery 12.26, Dallas (2022). Maiuri's work has been featured in group exhibitions that include Make Room, Los Angeles (2022); Klaus von Nichtsagend Gallery, New York City (2022); and MAMOTH Gallery, London, UK (2022). Maiuri's work has recently been featured in ArtMaze Magazine, Monopol and Floorr Magazine.

Prae Pupityastaporn (b. 1981, Bangkok, Thailand), currently lives and works in Bangkok, Thailand. Pupityastaporn has exhibited internationally, and solo exhibitions include, *Imagine The Ocean*, Nova Contemporary, Bangkok; *The Perfect Day for Fishing*, Nova Contemporary, Bangkok; *Dirty Snow Posey*, Brand New 2016 Art Project, BUG Gallery, Bangkok; *Once Upon Now*, Gallery Maerzhase, Paderborn, Germany; *Anywhere by Here*, Gallery Schloss Neersen, Willich, Germany.

Sarah Schlesinger (b. 1988, Wynnewood, USA) currently lives and works in New York. Schlesinger received her BFA from Taylor University in 2010, before graduating with an MFA from New York Academy of Art in 2015. Upcoming exhibitions include *Gentling*, Sibyl Gallery, New Orleans; *CANart Ibiza*, 1969 Gallery, Ibiza, Spain; *Future Fair*, Huxley Parlou Gallery, New York, NY. Past exhibitions include *Double Up*, My Pet Ram, Santa Barbara, USA; *Gone Was The Glow*, 1969 Gallery, New York; *Books*, Miriam Gallery, Brooklyn, NY. Awards and residencies include *Rema Hort Mann Foundation Grant Nominee* (2022).

Jill Tate (b. 1983) currently lives and works in Newcastle, UK. Tate received a 1st Class BA (Hons) in Contemporary Photographic Practice from Northumbria University in 2005. After working as a freelance architectural photographer for several years, the focus of her artwork shifted towards painting, which has formed the core of her practice since 2017. In 2021 Jill was awarded an Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant for Degrees of Freedom, followed by a DYCP grant for Groundwork in 2022. She has exhibited at Galerie Marguo, Paris; The Sunday Painter, London; OSH Projects, London; Unit 1 Gallery, London; and BALTIC Gateshead.

About Workplace

WORKPLACE is a commercial gallery based in London and Newcastle, representing international and British artists working across media and at different career stages. The gallery is committed to championing an increasingly diverse roster of artists through its programme of exhibitions, events and art fair participation.

Workplace was founded in 2002 by Miles Thurlow and Paul Moss (d.2019) as an artist-led curatorial project in the Northeast of England. In 2005 Workplace opened its first gallery in Gateshead and ran a programme there until 2018. Workplace relaunched in October 2020 in London and is now based at 50 Mortimer Street in Fitzrovia. In 2023 Workplace announced the launch of a second gallery space in Newcastle, UK.

In 2017 the gallery set up Workplace Foundation to engage meaningfully with the community surrounding the gallery and to support emerging and under-represented artists. Workplace Foundation is a registered charity and is focused on supporting equality and diversity, environmental sustainability, and arts education. It is supported by the commercial gallery, trusts and foundations, and by the generous support of individual patrons and benefactors.

Gallery details:

Workplace, 50 Mortimer Street, London, W1W 7RP

Exhibition dates:

14 July – 2 September 2023

Gallery hours:

Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm

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

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