

Read more about oil and bitumen paintings 2021

***Painting for social change.....***

Oil and bitumen works on canvas are time intensive and take many months to make – even though the bitumen dripping process can be relatively quick, the application of oil paint and the subsequent drying time can be a long process.

Working on a range of different sized canvases the richly textured compositions are difficult to capture and need really to be seen in the flesh! The chaotic and crowded figures are at once surreal and dystopian, yet are choreographed with powerful female protagonists. Bizarre domestic settings situate women and mothers in new imaginary realms that challenge domestic legacies of inequality, guilt & misrepresentation that damage women’s mental health.

Dripping bitumen creates dynamic networks from which figures weave narratives that aim to humorously engage our empathy and propose that we question historical hierarchies and power structures and initiate new conversations about who and what we value.'



Detail from *A history of domestic appliances*, oil & mixed media on canvas, 120x150x3cm, 2021

*A history of domestic appliances* explores power relations and hierarchies. It denies historical and religious references in its title, yet patriarchy is there and its coat of arms are 5 ‘diapers’ – the diamond patterns in the cloth that led to the synonymous American diapers – or nappies in the UK. I’ve been painting figures that use historical references since 2006, yet rarely broken with the use of bitumen, which makes multiple figure paintings very challenging (and doing it for that reason). It’s an interesting process to freely explore multiple figured narrative compositions inspired by history, yet of my own invention, using – just oil paint for a change.



*Last and least wait till everything else has been eaten*, oil & bitumen on canvas, 60x50cm, 2021

Paintings create rich tapestries of dark yet colourful scenes that aim to re-shape our thinking about equality and visibility. Narrative is a central function of language and to learn to speak is to tell a story - yet that story has primarily been written or illustrated by men. Creating differentiated narratives that layer and connect time, people and equality, takes us on a journey and that 'once upon a time' tells us that things change. As we exist in the middle of our stories, we all need to be reminded that we can make the ending different.

The title is inspired by reading *The Double X Economy* by Linda Scott.



*We all have as many selves as there individuals to recognise us*, 50x60cm, 2021

This dark rainy city street with multiple characters adopts a synoptic narrative – one where a character is portrayed multiple times. It even has a conjoined figure. Evoking the multiplicity of the Self and the different roles that women play each day to survive represents often invisible lives.