
CHARLIE SMITH LONDON

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EMMA BENNETT

All Aflame

CHARLIE SMITH LONDON @ 64 Charlotte Road, Shoreditch, London EC2A 3PE

PREVIEW	Thursday 6 May 5:00-8:00pm Scheduled time intervals by appointment only Please contact direct@charliesmithlondon.com to book Limited places available
EXHIBITION DATES	Friday 7 May – Monday 17 May 2021 Only one individual, couple, household or group of six will be permitted to attend the exhibition at any one time
EXHIBITION HOURS	Monday – Saturday 11am-6pm Sunday 12pm-5pm

CHARLIE SMITH LONDON is excited to announce an outstanding solo exhibition of new work by Emma Bennett near to its previous gallery site in Shoreditch at 64 Charlotte Road. New work will be presented on the ground floor, accompanied by a retrospective in the basement.

This group of paintings were made in a turbulent year for Bennett, which began with several journeys back and forth between London and Wales to visit her poorly father. Visits to the hospital bedside and then, after his death, to the old family home resonated with a wistfulness that is familiar to the artist, whose primary interests include those of memory, time and transience. Upon returning to London, and during the Covid pandemic, these paintings were made.

Bennett adopts enduring motifs including fruit, flowers, drapes, hanging hare, mirrored reflections and ascending stairs, bestowing them with astounding emotional resonance. The artist states:

“It is the fragments of still life painting that dominate these images, with clusters of flowers infused with love. Within the endless space of the black grounds, I wanted the compositions to be a guide that leads you, as if following a family line. The figurative elements that coexist here reflect on our relationships with family and significant others – those who inspire us and those who have diminished us.”

Fire is another motif that Bennett has explored in recent years:

“Still life and fire have coexisted for some time in my paintings as I've attempted to hold the flame and the flammable in a precarious balance or on the point of combustion. Here there are multiple fires: for a lost spark can ignite a memory of a past flame. White heat threatens to scorch the fruit that encircles it.”

Bennett emphasizes that nature is preeminent. She meditates on individual events that have a long-lasting legacy, transcending the lives of those who live through them as well as the imaginations of those who follow.

The event will take place at 64 Charlotte Road, Shoreditch, London EC2A 3PE. Open Mon to Sat 11am-6pm & Sun 12pm-5pm. Please contact the gallery for further information at direct@charliesmithlondon.com. Follow us @CHARLIESMITHLdn.

PLEASE NOTE: NO MORE THAN SIX GUESTS WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PREVIEW AT ANY ONE TIME IN 30 MINUTE TIME INTERVALS. WE POLITELY REQUEST ALL ATTENDEES WEAR FACE COVERING AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING. PLEASE EMAIL DIRECT@CHARLIESMITHLONDON.COM TO BOOK.

DURING PUBLIC HOURS BOOKING IS ADVISED BUT NOT ESSENTIAL. WE POLITELY REQUEST ALL ATTENDEES WEAR FACE COVERING AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Please contact gallery for images and further information

BIOGRAPHICAL

BORN 1974

EDUCATION

1997 – 1998: MA in Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art and Design; 1993 – 1996: BA (Hons) in Fine Art, Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2021: All Aflame (solo), CHARLIE SMITH LONDON, London; Thing Worlds, Art Spot Korin, Kyoto; 2019: Volcano Lovers (solo), CHARLIE SMITH LONDON, London; 10 Years, CHARLIE SMITH LONDON, London; 2018: Sammlung Reydan Weiss. "Ohne Etikett fühle ich mich freier...", Herzog Anton Ulrich Museum, Braunschweig; 2017: Haunts (solo), CHARLIE SMITH LONDON, London; doing identity. Die Sammlung Reydan Weiss, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum; In Memoriam Francesca Lowe, Old Truman Brewery, London; Nature Morte: Contemporary Still Life (curated by Michael Petry), Guildhall Art Gallery, London; 2016: I Prefer Life: Reydan Weiss Collection, Weserburg | Museum of Modern Art, Bremen; 2015: Several Small Fires (solo), CHARLIE SMITH LONDON, London; Flora (curated by Alex Boyd Jones), Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth, Oriol Davies Gallery, Newtown; Die English Kommen! – New Painting from London (curated by Zavier Ellis), Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt; 2014, 100 Painters of Tomorrow, Beers Contemporary, London; Saatchi's New Sensations and THE FUTURE CAN WAIT (curated by Zavier Ellis, Simon Rumley & Rebecca Wilson), B1, Victoria House, London; Still Life: All Coherence Gone? (curated by Frances Woodley), BayArt Gallery, Cardiff; Fleursdumal (curated by Dolly Thompsett), Lion and Lamb Gallery, London; 2013: Emma Bennett (solo), Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff; 2012: And, Afterwards (solo), CHARLIE SMITH LONDON, London; Kalliphilia , Vegas Gallery, London; East Wing X: Courtauld Institute, London; 2011: Saatchi Gallery & Channel 4's New Sensations B1, Victoria House, London and THE FUTURE CAN WAIT (curated by Zavier Ellis, Simon Rumley & Rebecca Wilson); Polemically Small (curated by Edward Lucie-Smith), Klaipėda Culture Communication Centre, Klaipėda; THE FUTURE CAN WAIT presents: Polemically Small, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance (curated by Zavier Ellis, Edward Lucie-Smith, Max Presneill & Simon Rumley); 2010: Death & Co (solo), CHARLIE SMITH LONDON, London; New British Painting, Gallery Kalhama & Piippo Contemporary, Helsinki; 2006: John Moores 24 / Liverpool Biennale, Walker Gallery, Liverpool; 2002: Emma Bennett: New Paintings (solo), Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art, London; 2001: A Month in the Garden, The Museum of Garden History, London; 2001: Bittersweet, Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art, London

COLLECTIONS

K & K Kollektion, Monaco; Preiskel & Co, London; Julian & Stephanie Grose, Adelaide; David Roberts, London; The Reydan Weiss Collection, Munich; private collections in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States
