

Stephen Friedman Gallery

From Near and Far:
Collage and Figuration
in the Contemporary Age

Curated by Katy Hessel
and Deborah Roberts

9 June – 23 July 2022

Sarah Ball, Jordan Casteel, Kenturah Davis, M. Florine Démosthène, Genevieve Gaignard, Lubaina Himid, Kudzanai-Violet Hwami, Chantal Joffe, Aubrey Levinthal, Deborah Roberts, Martha Rosler, Anne Rothenstein, Betye Saar, Amy Sherald, Mickalene Thomas and Caroline Walker.

Private view:
Wednesday 8 June, 6–8pm

Gallery hours:
Tuesday–Friday, 10am–6pm
Saturday 11am–5pm

11 & 30 Old Burlington Street, Mayfair,
London



Stephen Friedman Gallery presents 'From Near and Far', an exhibition exploring the notion of collage.

Bringing together 16 contemporary female artists, the exhibition focuses on collage as a concept and an art form; from the traditional method of splicing together imagery to amalgamating figures, forms, gestures and viewpoints. The artists are united by a shared interest in figuration.

Curated by Katy Hessel, art historian and founder of The Great Women Artists, and artist Deborah Roberts, the exhibition features over twenty works, many of which have never been shown before. Gallery artists Sarah Ball, Deborah Roberts and Caroline Walker all present new works. Other highlights include significant, large-scale paintings by Jordan Casteel and Amy Sherald; a series of collages by Lubaina Himid that have never previously been exhibited; and new and historic works by Kenturah Davis, M. Florine Démosthène, Genevieve Gaignard, Kudzanai-Violet Hwami, Chantal Joffe, Aubrey Levinthal, Martha Rosler, Anne Rothenstein, Betye Saar and Mickalene Thomas.

'From Near and Far' demonstrates how artists have used collage to translate and evoke the world around them. The works on view dissect political and social norms embedded in mainstream visual culture, exposing fractured aspects of society whilst also presenting vital images of unity.

The exhibiting artists build on the legacy of pioneering women such as Hannah Höch, who used the medium in photomontage, and Pauline Boty, who pioneered the technique of 'painting' collage. Kudzanai-Violet Hwami uses the technique of collage for its freedom and power to connect thoughts and words, whilst Deborah Roberts combines images of different skin tones, facial features, hairstyles and clothes to create empowering depictions of Black youth. Working with magazines, Martha Rosler brings to light social and political injustices, whilst Anne Rothenstein and Chantal Joffe use the medium in its rawest form to explore figuration.

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Caroline Walker and Sarah Ball deploy collage in the preliminary stages of their work, blending preparatory photographs to create a composite image from which to paint, whilst Amy Sherald explores the figure/ground relationship by setting her figures against flat planes of bright colour.

Also at Stephen Friedman Gallery and presented alongside 'From Near and Far' is Deborah Roberts' solo exhibition, 'I want to talk about you' at 25-28 Old Burlington Street, Mayfair.

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Stephen Friedman Gallery represents exceptional artists from around the world. Since its inauguration in 1995, the gallery has been based in London on Old Burlington Street, Mayfair. The gallery has three spaces in which it hosts solo and group exhibitions throughout the year. Additional works can be viewed by appointment in private rooms and office spaces. There is also a facility to exhibit outdoor sculpture in a landscaped private garden.

Katy Hessel

Katy Hessel is a British art historian, curator and broadcaster. She runs The Great Women Artists Instagram and hosts the podcast of the same name. A presenter on art for the BBC, Katy has curated exhibitions at Victoria Miro and Timothy Taylor. In September 2022, her first book, 'The Story of Art Without Men', will be published by Penguin.

Deborah Roberts

Deborah Roberts was born in Austin, Texas, USA in 1962 where she continues to live and work. A two-person exhibition bringing together works by Roberts and American artist Benny Andrews will take place at McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas in October 2022. Stephen Friedman Gallery, London will host its second solo show by the artist in June 2022, alongside a group exhibition based on the notion of collage, curated by Roberts and Katy Hessel. This follows her first institutional presentation in the UK in October 2021 at Bluecoat, Liverpool. Roberts exhibited in group projects at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Scottish National Galleries, UK in 2021.

The artist's major touring solo exhibition 'I'm' opened at The Contemporary Austin, Texas in January 2021, following the installation of her first outdoor public mural there in September 2020. The show travelled to Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Colorado in 2021; and Art + Practice in collaboration with California African American Museum, Los Angeles, California and Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Jacksonville, Florida in 2022.

Image: Amy Sherald, 'A Golden Afternoon', 2016. Oil on canvas, 137.2 x 109.2cm (54 x 43in). Private Collection. Copyright Amy Sherald. Courtesy the artist and Stephen Friedman Gallery, London. Photo by Joseph Martin Hyde.