

# Stephen Friedman Gallery

Vogue  
14 brilliant female-led exhibitions to visit in the UK this spring  
Katy Hessel  
24 April 2021

## VOGUE

### 14 brilliant female-led exhibitions to visit in the UK this spring

As galleries prepare to reopen, Katy Hessel – founder of The Great Women Artists – rounds up the most remarkable female-led exhibitions to visit across Britain in the coming months.

#### 'Ecstatic Draught Of Fishes' At Hauser & Wirth London



Presenting new large-scale paintings and watercolours, Ecstatic Draught of Fishes will showcase an on-going series from Ellen Gallagher's extensive and important oeuvre, which deals with mythical underwater worlds. Populated with inventive biomorphic forms that relate to the Afrofuturist myth of Drexciya and drawing on 17th-century Brazilian plantation maps, Gallagher's new works explore cartography and map-making.

21 May – 31 July

Image: Ellen Gallagher, Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth, photo by Tony Nathan

#### 'Claudia Andujar: The Yanomami Struggle' At The Barbican Centre

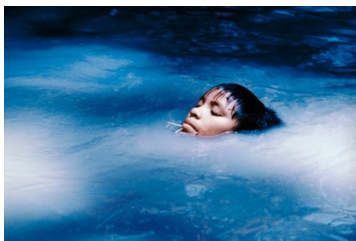


Image: Claudia Andujar

With her vivid and vibrant images, Brazilian artist and former photojournalist Claudia Andujar uses photography as a form of activism – shining a light on the Yanomami people, a tribe located in the depths of the rainforest, whom she has been collaborating with since the early '70s. Documenting their lives through radiant and dignified images, Andujar has been known to distort her camera lens with everything from Vaseline to oil lamps to depict the spiritual and shamanistic qualities of the Yanomami people.

17 June – 29 August

#### 'Veronica Ryan: Along A Spectrum' At Spike Island

One of the pioneers of the British Black Arts Movement of the 1980s, and now based between the UK and New York, this summer, Veronica Ryan will take over Bristol's Spike Island. Filled with her sculptures and installations made up of plaster, clay, bronze and aluminium, Ryan's creations are concerned with notions of place, home, memory and loss. Dealing with the container as a key motif, her experimental work explores the associations around revealing and concealing.



19 May – 5 September

Image: Veronica Ryan. Courtesy the artist and Paula Cooper Gallery, New York. Photograph by Max McClure

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## 'Barbara Hepworth: Art & Life' At Hepworth Wakefield

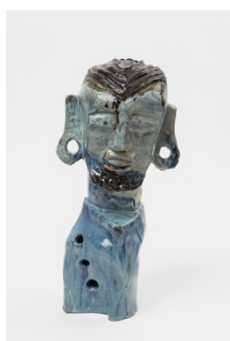


To mark the 10th anniversary of the Hepworth Wakefield, the Yorkshire museum (which is located in Barbara Hepworth's birthplace) will hold a major exhibition to celebrate the life and work of the sculptural modernist. Along with the smaller works that helped launch Hepworth's career in the 1920s, it will include the mammoth bronzes of the 1940s and '50s and special commissions by Tacita Dean and Veronica Ryan.

21 May – 27 February

Image: Bowness, Photo: Studio St Ives

## 'Leilah Babirye' At Stephen Friedman



Watch out for the first (much anticipated) European solo exhibition by Leilah Babirye, the New York-based Uganda-born artist who works across ceramics, towering wooden sculptures, masks, and vividly dynamic works on paper. Exploring the legacies of British colonialism in Uganda, Babirye is fuelled by her experience and progressive ideas around LGBTQIA+ activism, which in turn has led her to develop a stunningly unique language in the form of imagined queer clans.

4 June to 10 July

Image: Leilah Babirye. Courtesy the artist. Stephen Friedman Gallery, London And Gordon Robichaux, New York

## 'Eileen Agar: Angel Of Anarchy' At Whitechapel Gallery

The show of the summer, Angel of Anarchy is Eileen Agar's largest exhibition to date. Spanning work from the 1920s to the 1990s, the show brings together a wide variety of the artist's eccentric paintings, collages, photographs, and sculptures (as well as the artist's collection of flamboyant hats). Born in Buenos Aires and



raised largely in the UK, Agar became one of the foremost British Surrealists of the 1930s. Looking to the natural world, Agar collected everything from starfish to shells on the beaches of Cornwall to form her eclectic works.

19 May – 29 August

Image: Estate of Eileen Agar/Bridgeman Images/Photograph. Courtesy Pallant House Gallery, Chichester © Doug Atfield

## 'Chantal Joffe: Story' At Victoria Miro



Image: Chantal Joffe, Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro, Photo by Angus Mill Photography

American-born British painter Chantal Joffe makes personal self-portraits and portraits of those close to her. For her latest exhibition, Story, she shares images of her mother – some of them three decades in the making. Highlighting the complex dynamics inherent in the mother-daughter relationship, Story addresses notions of ageing and visibility. Joffe's long-standing friend and collaborator, writer Olivia Laing, will accompany the exhibition with a text. 4 June – 31 July

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## 'Embodying Anew' At Maximillian William

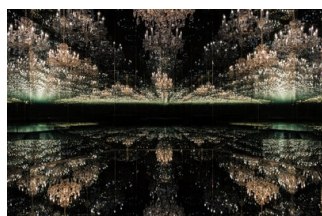


One of the most exciting young London galleries out there, look out for another phenomenal addition to Maximillian William's programme with Embodying Anew, a group show including British sculptor Magdalene Odundo, the American artist Simone Leigh (who will represent the US at next year's Venice Biennale), as well as Thaddeus Mosley. Fusing historical traditions from the African continent and diaspora in their work, the sculptural creations of these artists are imbued with layers of meaning.

Dates to be announced

Image: Yayoi Kusama, Courtesy Ota Fine Arts and Victoria Miro

## 'Yayoi Kusama' At Tate Modern



Form a queue; Yayoi Kusama's dazzlingly kaleidoscopic and immersive "Infinity Mirror Rooms" are back at Tate Modern this spring. First conceived in the 1960s, when the Japanese-born artist was living amongst the artistic avant-garde in New York, these rooms have garnered acclaim (and obscene fandom) all around the globe. Stunningly beautiful, Kusama's "Infinity Mirror Rooms" create otherworldly, celestial-like realms which transport you to moments of quiet and reflection.

Dates to be announced

## 'Sheila Hicks' At Alison Jacques Gallery

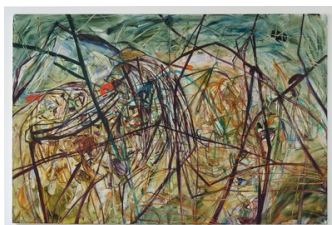


Image: Sheila Hicks, Courtesy Alison Jacques Gallery, London

While we wait for Sheila Hicks's upcoming show at Hepworth Wakefield, London-based gallery, Alison Jacques, will be holding a major exhibition of the textile connoisseur's work. A former pupil of Josef Albers, who was also indirectly mentored by Anni Albers, Hicks fuses ancient Peruvian techniques for her dazzling, kaleidoscopic and sometimes immersive thread-based worlds.

4 June – 10 July

## Liverpool Biennial



Jadé Fadojutimi. Courtesy the artist; Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne; and Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London. Photo by Simon Vogel.

Now in its 11th edition, the Liverpool Biennial kicks off in March with the first outdoor "chapter" of the overall exhibition, The Stomach and the Port, with large-scale sculptures and digital commissions. Showcasing the work of 50 artists (think Jadé Fadojutimi, Kathleen Ryan, Ayesha Hameed, and Ebony G Patterson), the Biennial draws on non-Western thinking and will explore the fluidity of the body, and the constant shaping of its environment. Challenging the history of Liverpool, a city both rooted in colonialism and active in modernisation, this major exhibition will envision different forms of being human.

20 March – 6 June

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## 'Helen Frankenthaler: Radical Beauty' At Dulwich Picture Gallery



Image: Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Inc / Dacs / Publisher Of Print

At the end of the summer, look forward to an extensive exhibition dedicated to a lesser known but equally dazzling segment of Abstract Expressionist Helen Frankenthaler's oeuvre: her woodcuts. One of the leading American artists of the 20th century, who pioneered colour field painting and invented the "soak-stain", Frankenthaler spent her six-decade-plus career experimenting with the limitless possibilities of colour. Inspired by nature, her woodcuts are some of her most expressive and lyrical works.  
15 September – 17 April

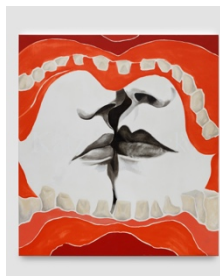
## 'Lisa Brice' & 'Nina Hamnett' At Charleston



Make a trip to the former farmhouse home of the Bloomsbury Group to see two major exhibitions by two painters working a century apart: Nina Hamnett and Lisa Brice, both of whom explored ideas around the artist and model. Welsh-born painter (and former artist-model) Hamnett was known for her striking and direct portraits created amongst the Parisian and British avant-garde, while South African-born painter Brice reclaims forgotten women from historical works in her cobalt-blue masterpieces.  
19 May – 30 August

Image: Nina Hamnett. Private Collection. Photo by Stephen White

## 'Allison Katz', 'Mélanie Matranga', & 'Erika Verzutti' At Nottingham Contemporary



Three solo exhibitions by three different women will be taking over Nottingham Contemporary this summer. Canadian artist Allison Katz explores identity and expression through her bold, bright and brash paintings; French-born Mélanie Matranga will exhibit a colossal installation featuring moving images and sculptures; and Brazilian artist Erika Verzutti will attempt to define Brazilian culture through sculptures moulded from jackfruits.  
22 May – 31 October

Image: Allison Katz. Courtesy the artist and Gió Marconi Milan