

WINTERGREEN BOXWOOD

19 September - 15 November 2020

SHOLTO BLISSETT | SAM CREASEY | GIANNA DISPENZA | SASHA FERRÉ
HENGZHI GONG | JUKKA VIRKKUNEN | XU YANG | LINGRUI ZHANG



No 20 Arts
20 Cross Street
London N1 2BG

Sasha Ferré, Detail of *Il devient un nouvel oiseau et choisit pour sa demeure l'élément liquide*, 2020

No 20 Arts is delighted to present WINTERGREEN BOXWOOD, a group exhibition featuring works by Sholto Blissett, Sam Creasey, Gianna Dispenza, Sasha Ferré, Hengzhi Gong, Jukka Virkkunen, Xu Yang and Lingrui Zhang. Taking its name from a plant able to thrive in hostile and difficult conditions, WINTERGREEN BOXWOOD gives title to a series of paintings born out of extreme and uncertain environments, recognising the versatility and resourcefulness of artistic creation in our current climate.

With WINTERGREEN BOXWOOD, No 20 Arts presents a unique and exciting opportunity to view recent developments in contemporary painting. The eight exhibited artists are an eclectic mix, who somehow all seem to resonate together despite their differences in technique, media and concept.

Growing up surrounded by the ancient sites of Stonehenge and the Avebury stone circle, Sholto Blissett has always been interested in the fictions societies create to understand their place in nature. His work is a mediation on the idyllic, the rural and the pastoral, evoking the Western division of the human and non-human.

The relationship between the mind, body and materials of the urban space—concrete, tarmac, steel and glass—is central to Sam Creasey's practice. Sam's artwork responds to his own experiences as a delivery driver, observing the lives, localities and idiosyncrasies of a metropolitan population.



Sholto Blissett, *Anthropocene II*, 2020

Gianna Dispenza tends to resist traditional paint and favours the use of industrial materials such as clay, grout and volcanic ash to experiment with form, tone and texture. Her organic palette is drawn together with media derived from the everyday: the detritus of travel, newspaper clippings and deserted objects.



Gianna Dispenza, Detail of *Sitter II*, 2020

Sasha Ferré's recent artworks directly respond to the global pandemic, a crisis that has fostered an existence where individuals have been encouraged to behave like plants: staying still whilst simultaneously developing and changing.

The figures in Hengzhi Gong's paintings come from his own personal experiences and dreams. Yet Gong's paintings are not only documentations of personal experience and the imagination; they are also an expression of identity and political opinion from an artist subtly speaking out about his powerlessness towards self-censorship.

Contributing to the exhibition with his large scale canvases and installation works, Jukka Virkkunen experiments with unstretched canvases, folding and twisting their surfaces. The artist is interested in how each individual material behaves and naturally exists within a painting. In all he does, the physicality of the gesture is always evident.



Jukka Virkkunen, *Cloth 06*, 2020



Xu Yang, *If You Can Choose Only One Thing*
10072019, 2019

The playful painting and mixed media works of Xu Yang explore her own childhood fantasies, fetishes and identities. Her artworks are constructions of various female identities and look to resuscitate the lavish and indulgent style of the Rococo for our contemporary moment. Performativity is at the centre of Yang's practice.

Lingrui Zhang's diptych *A Man, A Woman* focuses on ontology—the branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being—and explores how we perceive the essence of human beings. In this artwork, Zhang challenges the way we infer specific attributes about an individual based on clear identification, the body and its core features.

About No 20 Arts

Opened in January 2017, No 20 Arts is a centre for contemporary arts. A multi-functional space, the gallery hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances and events that support emerging and established artists working across all media.

For more information and prices, please contact info@no20arts.com

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