

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERACTIONS : BODY & THEATRE

By Marina Renee-Cemmick



They Went Down to the River, Oil on Paper, 50 x 70cm

LONDON, UK, (insert release date); Brushes with Greatness presents ***Interactions : Body & Theatre*** by artist Marina Renee-Cemmick, showing art that interrogates the body and experience, expressing a personal phenomenology through memory, imagination, and figuration.

A two-part exhibition: Act 1 presents us with a retrospective look at Renee-Cemmick's multimedia work in figuration and portraiture. Act 2 her practice's recent development combining movement and theatre, with drawing and painting, working with physical theatre group Flabbergast Theatre.

Hosted at Tap & Bottle, the two-floor exhibition follows a natural journey through Renee-Cemmick's series over the past five years. Ascending the stairs under the watchful gaze of her imposing 4m drawing *Decent into Madness's* Macbeth, the show spirals with the viewer as we move from Act 1 into Act 2. The warren of grade 2 listed spaces presenting equal character to support the art, and enriching potential for the supporting talks and performances we will host with Renee-Cemmick and the Flabbergast theatre troop throughout the exhibition.

In **Act 1** Renee-Cemmick's far reaching journey through figuration and portraiture combines classical figuration with abstracted or fragmented forms; often layering multiple images to create a sense of time and motion.

These pieces consider the body's relationships with space, environment, history and nature, from ranging compositional, stylistic and personal viewpoints.

Her leading Oil Painting *Searching for the Light* is a personal reflection of London living. Two figures sit side by side on a tube with their arms touching, close in proximity but their gazes distant. We are looking up at the third younger figure. She stands pointing at her chest in question. The rooftops of the buildings resemble warehouses, and a figure climbs a ladder to paint a blank sign in the distance, his body disappearing into the light. The pages of a book with verse from T. S. Elliott's *Wasteland* allow the viewer to be part of the painting, referencing *Supper at Emmaus* by Caravaggio.

We see Renee-Cemmick experiment with fragmenting the body, a regular motif, interrupting areas with foliage and objects, detailing others, creating a sense of movement and the qualities of memories. Each of her 6-piece series *Theatre of Instinct*, painted on aluminium, is an element of human existence that is necessary; Fight or flight responses, relationships, feeding our intellect, life and death. Her featured *Collection of Portraits* series exemplifies reconnection and sight of distant friends or idols from her time studying in Glasgow, personalised through medium, expression and memory. Her water motifs are places of reflection and stillness, tombs, wombs, reminiscent of the tableau alcoves that contain sculptures of Christ and Mary in Florence, also projecting Renee-Cemmick's passion for cold water swimming, and its power for presence and energisation.



Searching for the Light, Oil on Canvas, 130 x 100cm

Act 2 presents the first public look at Renee-Cemmick's practice development working with Flabbergast Theatre Company. Renee-Cemmick's received arts council funding in 2021 to examine drawing and movement, creating a language between action, physical embodiment, and visual expression. Renee-Cemmick's forging of these arts drawing on a lifelong passion for dance and performance and expressing oneself nonverbally; evolving tap and contemporary dance to incorporate Japanese Butoh and physical theatre.



Dance Monkey, Oil on Canvas, 50.5 x 40.5cm

Flabbergast & Renee-Cemmick's 2021 tour to Poland, where Renee-Cemmick capturing the process of their finalisation of *Macbeth*, is the basis for these works. We see the documentation of the process through sketchbook pages and analogue photographs, leading us upstairs alongside *Descent into Madness*.

Moving between intuitive mark making and considered composition, Renee-Cemmick has developed her understanding of how line can be used to record an action, tell a narrative, document events or share her intimate experience of the world. Shown in Act 2's colourful figurative oil paintings characterised by their enhanced colour plate and cropped framing:

"I try to capture the rhythm of the body as it moves through space. The movement is too fast to focus on details, so you are left with a trace of the energy, scribbled vigorously, in an attempt at harnessing the dynamic created by actors the body."

This marrying of theatrical and observational life drawing, working from memory, and photographs, gives Renee-Cemmick a unique space to combine representation and storytelling, with abstraction and recorded action.

Listings Info:

Artist: Marina Renee-Cemmick

Title: Interactions : Body & Theatre

Dates: 08.03.22 – 07.05.22

Address: Tap & Bottle | 64 Union Street | London | SE1 1SG

Opening Times: 3pm – 10pm | Wed – Sat

Admission: Free

Nearest tube: London Bridge

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Notes to Editors:

About the Artist:

[Marina Renee-Cemmick](#) (b.1994) is a multi-disciplinary artist predominantly interrogating drawing, painting and movement. Studying at Glasgow School of Art (2018) Kyoto Seika, Japan (2016) and a recent graduate of the Royal Drawing School (2021), she has exhibited nationally and internationally including Christie's Auction house, The Mall Galleries RP and had work chosen by HRH Prince Charles himself for the Royal Collection. Most recently Renee-Cemmick has made live drawings and spoken at Windsor Castle and Art Basel Miami. She received DYCP Arts council Funding to develop her practice and is now an Associate artist of Flabbergast Theatre Company.

About the Venue:

[Tap & Bottle](#) is a stylish, up-and-coming wine bar bringing London a busy schedule of *Fine Wine, Fine Art & Fine Conversation* throughout 2022. Amongst their many other events, they will be hosting bi-monthly exhibitions showcasing the work of exciting emerging talent in the UK supported by talks, performances and more. Curated by Jack Trodd.

About the Gallery:



[Brushes with Greatness](#) is an agency & pop-up gallery, established in 2021 by fine art fanatic Jack Trodd to match passion with passion, forging creative connections. Enabling artists & collections to thrive together through an ever-evolving calendar of public exhibitions, connectivity, and private opportunities.

About Flabbergast Theatre:

Formed in 2010 [Flabbergast Theatre](#) was conceived to make exciting theatre rooted in physicality and devising with a belief that all theatre should be vital, engaging and accessible. They are committed to exploration of all theatrical styles, adding to an excellent reputation in puppetry, physical comedy, and physical theatre by exploring other expressions and pedagogy such as Butoh, Grotowski, Lecoq and Mask.