

FRANCE-LISE MCGURN: HOSTESS



20 APRIL – 25 MAY 2023

PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY, 20 APRIL, 6–8 PM

SIMON LEE GALLERY, LONDON

Simon Lee Gallery is proud to announce *Hostess*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Glasgow- and London-based artist France-Lise McGurn. Situated on the first floor of the gallery, *Hostess* showcases a new body of work featuring a large central triptych, new wall piece and a painted sofa suite.

Working on linen, McGurn allows this base textile to shift the tone and mood of these new paintings. The exhibition title refers to the politics and power dynamics inherent in hosting, both socially and within the science of the body. The feminised term 'hostess' points to the recurring female form as a motif and abstract glyphic psychological reiteration in McGurn's work.

Evading the boundaries of the traditional picture plane, McGurn eschews the limits of her canvases by extending the imagery directly onto the gallery walls and onto furniture brought into the space, displacing her subjects and creating an immersive environment. Instead of approaching painting as a static form, the artist activates the composition, allowing the figures and forms to be seen as though in a field of vision. Occasionally confrontational, sometimes passive, sometimes ecstatic, these characters shift through these emotions, constantly reforming their personas.

NOTES TO EDITORS**About France-Lise McGurn**

Born in 1983, France-Lise McGurn lives and works in Glasgow and London, UK. After completing her studies at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, UK, she obtained her masters at the Hunter College of Art, New York, NY and the Royal College of Art, London, UK, both in 2012. In 2005, she was awarded the John Kinross Scholarship to Florence by the Royal Scottish Academy. She has also received the John Milne Purvis prize (2005) and the Jeremy Cubitt prize (2010). Her work has been the subject of a number of solo museum, gallery, and art fair presentations, most recently: Studio Voltaire, London, UK (2023); Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK (2022); The Armory Show, New York, NY (2022); Glasgow International, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow, UK (2021); Kunsthaus Pasquart, Biel, Switzerland (2020); Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK (2020); Tramway, Glasgow, UK (2020); Tate Britain, London, UK (2019); Hospitalfield House, Arbroath, UK (2018); Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK (2017); and Bosse and Baum, London, UK (2016). Recent group exhibitions include Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK (2023); Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, Rugby, UK (2022); Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, UK (2022); Drawing Room, London, UK (2021); Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK (2021); Simon Lee Gallery, New York, NY (2020); Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, UK (2019); CCA, Glasgow, UK (2018); Tate St. Ives, Cornwall, UK which travelled to Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, UK and The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK (2018); Une Une Une, Perpignan, France (2017) and David Roberts Collection, London, UK (2017).

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme.

Address: Simon Lee Gallery, 12 Berkeley Street, London, W1J 8DT.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery www.simonleegallery.com

Image: France-Lise McGurn, *The Blow Out* (detail), 2023. Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact: zoe@simonleegallery.com