

Dancing With Dreams

17th February – 15th May 2017

Galeria Melissa

43 King Street

London WC2E 8JY

Free Admission

#GaleriaMelissaClaireBarrow

#DancingWithDreams

'**Dancing With Dreams**' is an immersive art piece integrating sculpture, performance, technology, fashion, film and music from multi-disciplinary visual artist, **Claire Barrow** and hosted by **Galeria Melissa**, Covent Garden.

Adhering to Melissa's recycled ethos, Claire has created 5 sculptures from found materials, clay and acrylic which will be displayed in the main exhibition space. These sculptures are joined by digital projections of real people, performing to the sculptures as if the static sculptures were talking back. The film element of the exhibition is directed by **Joseph Bird**, featuring award winning actress **Sameena Jabeen Ahmed** who starred in the 2014 film 'Catch Me Daddy', dancer **Harry Alexander** of the **Michael Clark Company**, LGBT and social activist **Michael Peacock** and performance artist **Amy Kingsmill**. The musical score, commissioned by Claire is composed by **Kenichi Iwasa** of band **Xaviers** and **Taigen Kawabe** of band **Bo Ningen**. Taigen also provides vocals for the piece alongside singer **Beatrice Brown** whom both feature in the film performances too.

Both the sculptures and performers are wearing costumes designed by Claire and customised Melissa shoes. The outfits, which feature Claire's signature artworks, are embellished with pearls, feathers, ribbons and beads in muted pastels, white, black and silver tones.

The entrance area of Galeria Melissa will feature 13 single Melissa 'She' shoes from new the Autumn/Winter 2017 **FLYGRL** collection which have been customised by Claire. Hanging from the ceiling by ribbon designed by Claire, fans will be placed to create simulated wind to gently sway the shoes while the LED screens show the finer details of the performance film.

The concept of '**Dancing With Dreams**' is addressing ideas society puts upon people, whether this be prejudices, romantic ideals, initial assumptions and stereotypes. The exhibition is about challenging these ideas and allows the audience to make their own assumptions based on what they are seeing in the performances and in the static sculptures. The performers are aware of what character they are playing; but the audience is not, leaving it up to them to make their own assumptions. The title refers directly to this; dreaming up ideas of someone with or without knowing them. The 'dream' reflects on the soft mood of the exhibition alongside the theatrical element of the performances, welcoming the audience into Claire's imagination.

'The Melissa team has really supported my creative concept for this installation and I'm thrilled to be able to display it in Galeria Melissa. I've always been a fan of Melissa shoes, how they look and smell, and also their ethos of keeping everything 100% recyclable, animal and waste free.'

It's an honor to be able to follow exhibitions from Gareth Pugh, Jeremy Scott and the latest installation from Vivienne Westwood. I'm also thrilled to be working with actors, musicians and dancers at this professional level.'

galeria melissa.®

Galeria Melissa, Covent Garden is a space made where art, fashion, and design all live together. Located in one of the most emblematic buildings of the region, the futuristic atmosphere belongs to multi-media designer Muti Randolph. The space has a futuristic feel, with a LED structure that changes according to each exhibition hosted in the space. This King Street Georgian listed building is mixed with artistic implosion and a feeling of counterculture. Inspired in the fusion of biological forms with Melissa's plastic world, he has created a *cool*, avant-garde atmosphere.

Galeria Melissa, Covent Garden is the third of its kind, joining the flagship in São Paulo, Brazil and a recently relocated space in New York City, USA.

Previous Galeria Melissa installations include; **Zaha Hadid, Karl Lagerfeld, Jeremy Scott, Gareth Pugh** and most recently **Vivienne Westwood**.

melissa.®

For nearly 30 years, **Melissa** has been working hard to design innovative fashion footwear. They have achieved beauty through their design; shoes are made from PVC, a material that can be easily disassembled and recycled, as well as being completely cruelty-free with no animal products. Production is 100% efficient, with part of the shoes being manufactured using recycled PVC with no excess waste. Melissa assures us that they strive to ensure the very best working conditions for all shoe-makers and employees. Melissa shoes are made in Brazil. Over 50 million pairs of Melissa plastic shoes have been manufactured in the last 25 years and walked their way to 80 different countries around the world.

<https://www.melissa.com.br/uk>

Instagram UK: @shoesmelissa

Instagram Brazil: @melissaoficial

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CLAIRE BARROW

Claire Barrow is a London-based multidisciplinary visual artist working across the worlds of art and fashion.

Born in Stockton-on-Tees in 1990, Barrow studied Fashion at the University of Westminster. She made her London Fashion Week debut in 2012 and has since strived to explore new and surprising ways to present her hybrid work.

Barrow draws from her own experiences and DIY culture to address both modern identity and social issues within her work, applying her art onto everything from clothing to canvas, and within both physical and digital spaces.

Barrow presented her first solo art show, entitled 'The Bed, the Bath and the Beyond', at the M. Goldstein gallery, London (2016), which featured mixed media works in neon lights, drawings on toilet paper and paintings on canvas.

As well as working on her own collections, shows and special projects, Barrow has also collaborated with several luxury brands and retailers including Joseph (2011), Matchesfashion.com (2013) and John Smedley (2016). Her work has received critical acclaim in fashion and culture media including British Vogue, Dazed & Confused, i-D, CR Fashion Book and the Independent and won her a legion of industry fans including Carine Roitfield and Rihanna.

"It is a true delight, albeit rare these days, to come across such a talented individual who has the ability to personify their self and their soul into their work. Claire Barrow is such an individual. Claire is not simply a designer; she is a testimony to the significance of an artistic presence and the longevity of such consideration." **Nick Knight**

"Claire Barrow is known for obscuring the norm. First and foremost with her work as both an artist and a fashion designer with which she has complete fluidity between the two." **i-D**

"Claire Barrow is bored of people asking her whether she's an artist or a fashion designer. For the past eight seasons, she's been disturbing the line between the two occupations, adorning clothes with distinctive, surreal scenes and characters of her own making. Barrow has blurred the line between fashion and art since her brand's inception – now she has all but erased it." **Dazed & Confused**

Website and Social Media Information

Main website & Online Store: <http://www.clairebarrow.com>

Projects Website: <https://claire-barrow.squarespace.com>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/claire_barrow/

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UctxAQgVkvqkjEaTXP6FBPKA>

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