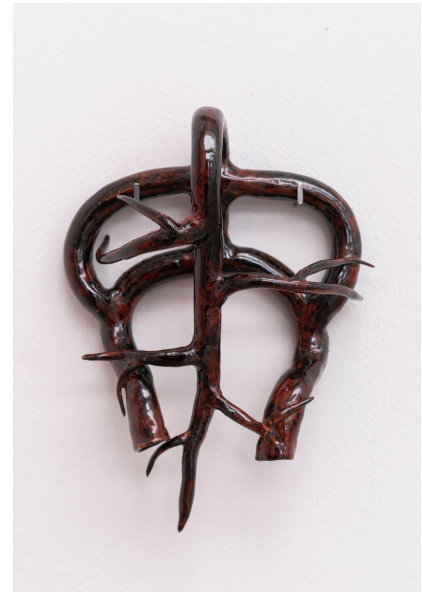


Female textile and ceramic artists are in focus in Unit London's latest group exhibition



Artworks (L-R): *How Fury Struck*, Bea Bonafini; *In Times Of Mourning Or Social Protest 2*, Sarah Zapata; *Systems Error*, Paloma Proudfoot

On March 7, Unit London opens *Within + Without*, a group exhibition bringing together 12 contemporary female artists working with textiles and ceramics. Curated by art historian and artist Ferren Gipson, the exhibition explores how the materiality and labour of tactile mediums address questions related to the environment, the body, domesticity, heritage, politics, and nature.

The exhibition features works by Vanessa Barragão, Bea Bonafini, Daisy Collingridge, Phoebe Collings-James, Ferren Gipson, Claire Lindner, Armina Howada Mussa, Bisila Noha, Paloma Proudfoot, Janice Redman, Sarah Zapata, and Anya Paintsil.

Within + Without is an extension of Gipson's research for her book *Women's Work*, which focuses on modern and contemporary women artists working in textiles and ceramics. The conventional definition of these mediums as 'feminine' and 'traditional' anchors the work of the featured artists in layers of social and cultural context. Through employing these mediums, artists – particularly female artists – challenge patriarchal notions of what constitutes 'high' or 'fine' art.

The artists' practices demonstrate how specific materials and methods can function as powerful tools to engage with the complexities of our public and private lives. Their works examine how internal domains, anatomies and bodily senses, private dwellings, external domains, relationships, cultures, politics, and social structures influence the way we move through our environments and relate to others.

Works by Vanessa Barragão and Claire Lindner evoke imagery found in nature, while Daisy Collingridge and Janice Redman incorporate materials and references found in interiors. Phoebe Collings-James and Bisila Noha's works contemplate identity and how it is informed by our wider environments. Anya Paintsil, Sarah Zapata, and Ferren Gipson reflect on cultural influences, drawing connections between family, heritage, and materials. Looking inwards, Bea Bonafini, Armina Howada Mussa, and Paloma Proudfoot investigate subjects of grief and memory, and the stories we tell ourselves.

Within + Without

Curated by Ferren Gipson

7 March–6 April, 2023

Unit London, Mayfair

3 Hanover Square

Private & Press View on March 9

Artists

Vanessa Barragão (Portugal)

Bea Bonafini (UK, Spain)

Daisy Collingridge (UK)

Phoebe Collings-James (UK)

Ferren Gipson (UK, US)

Claire Lindner (France)

Armina Howada Mussa (US)

Bisila Noha (UK, Spain)

Paloma Proudfoot (UK)

Janice Redman (US)

Sarah Zapata (Peru, US)

Anya Paintsil (Wales, Ghana)

About the Curator

Ferren Gipson is a British-American art historian, writer, and textile artist. She is a strong advocate for broadening the audience for art historical content, and topics in her research include explorations of the intersections between art and popular culture, highlighting the work of marginalised artists, and researching political themes in modern Chinese art. Within her textile art practice, she explores themes of labour, matrilineal connections, materiality, and colour.

In 2022 Gipson's work was featured in a group exhibition, titled *The New Bend*, with Hauser & Wirth, Los, Angeles, as well as *Imagine: Celebrating Black Female Creativity*, with Francine Kelly Gallery, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. She has also delivered talks and hosted interviews for

brands and institutions, including Tate, *Esquire* magazine, the National Gallery, the Design Museum and more. Her work has been featured in the monographs *The Ultimate Art Museum* (Phaidon) and *Women's Work* (Frances Lincoln), articles in the *Financial Times* and WeTransfer's online magazine *WePresent*, and the visual arts podcast Art Matters. She is currently a doctoral researcher at SOAS, University of London.

About Unit London

Established in September 2013, Unit London is a global artistic platform for international artists. Unit London has successfully launched and advanced the careers of numerous contemporary artists and remains firmly committed to its driving principles of equity, innovation, and accessibility. The gallery is forthright in its dedication to being an open and transparent institution at the forefront of an expanding and diversifying art industry. As a consequence of its boldly independent approach to the gallery model, Unit London has become synonymous with a pioneering use of social media and digital content – bridging the gap between the physical and virtual spheres of modern experience and connecting people with the art they love.

From day one, the gallery has embraced change and resisted conformity. In a too-often opaque and inequitable art market, we seek to identify and cultivate artists on a purely meritocratic basis. As a result, our programme is diverse and non-linear – perhaps even non-conventional. Our vision is for Unit London to be more than just a gallery, but an artistic platform to empower the most gifted creative minds of our generation. We feel a strong sense of duty to articulate their stories to an ever-growing international audience, and to magnify their impact for individuals, cultures, and societies around the globe. We are proud to have launched and advanced the careers of important contemporary artists whose work provokes, challenges, and inspires, and we are passionate about bringing their work to the public consciousness.

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