

Teasing Out Contingencies



Quilla Constance

17th June 2023 - 7th January 2024

The Higgins Bedford is delighted to present *Teasing Out Contingencies* – an exhibition of new large-scale oil paintings and a costume-installation by Quilla Constance (aka: QC)

QC's paintings for this exhibition employ a range of artistic techniques such as realism, surrealism and abstraction, and situate members of the public within opulent interiors from Buckingham Palace. Scenes from the paintings also include objects and logos that challenge and clash with the surroundings, creating unusual, humorous, and empowering imagery as a form of social activism.

The project began with a series of Open Studio performance workshops at Tate Modern in 2019. Gallery visitors were invited to dress up in QC's costumes and work with diverse objects and music. These workshops set out to cross borders, confront stereotypes, and challenge gender, racial and class inequalities.

Teasing Out Contingencies seeks to create exciting new narratives, exploring - what is British society now and where are we going? These are timely questions as we emerge from the Covid 19 pandemic, and as we re-examine our relationship with the British monarchy in the wake of the Queen's passing and the Coronation of King Charles III.

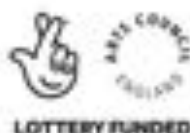
QC's artworks for this show also reference her maverick performance workshop with presenter-comedians Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan for the BAFTA nominated TV series *Rob & Romesh Vs* on Sky Max. This show made *Teasing Out Contingencies* accessible during the Covid 19 pandemic when Tate Modern was closed. Scan QR code shown above for a clip!

Teasing Out Contingencies is an ongoing project and marks the beginning of a larger body of paintings by QC. The huge response to her workshops at Tate Modern, with over 1,000 people taking part, was spectacular and much appreciated, and QC plans to incorporate imagery of as many participants as possible in her future artworks.

We hope you enjoy the exhibition!

QC would also like to offer special thanks to students from Bedford College, who feature in the painting *Carnival Throne*.

Teasing Out Contingencies is supported by Arts Council England, Tate Modern, Bedford Creative Arts, The Higgins Bedford, and Bedford Borough Council.



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