

Josh Lilley

Rachel Maclean
Enchantment of Reason
Josh Lilley, London

Dates: 4 June – 1 August 2026

Private View: 6PM, 4 June 2026

Exhibition Walkthrough (official part of LGW): 11AM, 5 June 2026



O, they serve you get (2026) Rachel Maclean

Josh Lilley is pleased to present a new solo exhibition by Rachel Maclean, opening on 4 June 2026 to coincide with London Gallery Weekend. The exhibition brings together painting, sculpture, film, and installation in a new body of work that expands Maclean's ongoing exploration of artificial intelligence (AI), perception, and authorship. Interrogating the tension between what AI is and what it feels like to encounter it, the exhibition draws viewers into a hallucinatory narrative space in which distinctions between reality and illusion begin to dissolve.

At the centre of the exhibition is a single-channel presentation of *They've Got Your Eyes* (2026), a new film by Maclean also on view at FACT Liverpool until 16 August 2026, commissioned by FACT and Sonica, Glasgow. Referencing AI as both a subject and a

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tool, the work reflects the biases, projections, desires and dangers embedded in it. Drawing parallels between the Victorian age of discovery and the microscope boom with today's AI companies, Maclean has created a world where technological enchantment and misperception come hand in hand. The film follows 'The Gentleman', a contemporary tech-bro-come-Victorian engineer, who has invented a process for generating fairies. His pursuit of 'progress' curdles into jealousy when he realises he's not alone; another Gentleman can summon fairies too, and with far greater aptitude. As the two men descend into rivalry, their shape-shifting creations flicker between flattery and mockery: at times disarmingly clumsy, at others unnervingly perceptive. Beneath The Gentleman's mounting God-complex runs a quiet dread: that his fairies know more than he ever could. For the film, Maclean employed AI system trained on her own likeness and artistic output to generate a recursive visual language in which the artist appears multiplied, distorted, and reconfigured.

In addition to film, painting remains central to Maclean's practice. The presentation will include a new body of paintings that synthesise digital and analogue techniques to produce largescale, intricate works that extend the visual language of the film. New sculptural pieces also translate Maclean's AI generated forms into the physical realm, crafting objects that are at once seductive and unsettling. These sculptures pulse with the same hyperreal intensity and psychological charge that define her screen-based work, inviting viewers into a vivid, uncanny world. 3D printed and aglow with LED light, they blend contemporary technology with classical sculpture, and the intricate decorative trappings of Victoriana with Maclean's unmistakable visual language.

The exhibition builds on Maclean's current presentation at FACT Liverpool and follows earlier developments at Inspace, University of Edinburgh, and Frieze London. Following its presentation at Josh Lilley, the film will travel to 1646, The Hague, and Sonica, Glasgow.

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For further information, high-res images and to arrange interviews please contact:

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About Josh Lilley

Founded in 2009 in London's Fitzrovia, Josh Lilley represents 28 emerging and mid-career contemporary artists working across painting, sculpture, installation, and new media. Through staging more than 150 gallery exhibitions, 100 international art fairs and numerous other external projects,

Josh Lilley has been a critical presence in the development of some of today's most celebrated international artists, including Kathleen Ryan, Celeste Rapone, Derek Fordjour, Tom Anholt and Alex De Corte – premiering significant introductory presentations and institutional engagements with generational British and international talent. Recent and upcoming gallery highlights include critically acclaimed Peruvian painter Rember Yahuarcani's first UK solo exhibition at the gallery in 2025, which followed his inclusion in Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere, the 60th

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International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy; Alake Shilling's participation in Made in L.A. 2025 at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles and Martine Gutierrez's upcoming inclusion in the 2026 Whitney Biennial in New York.

Nick Goss' sixth solo exhibition with the gallery, *Eel Pie Hotel*, is on view at the gallery until 23 May 2026.

<https://www.joshlilley.com>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/joshlilleygallery/?hl=en>

About Rachel Maclean

Rachel Maclean (b. 1987, Edinburgh, Scotland) creates video, painting, sculpture, VR and installations that operate deep in rendered space and at the vanguard of modern life. In an unmistakable saccharine palette, Maclean's characters and settings refract and anticipate contemporary culture, whipping from the acerbic to the cute, reflecting both the latent neurosis and bracing potential of life as a digital native.

Maclean has shown her work widely, both in the UK and internationally, receiving critical acclaim in the spheres of film and visual art. Her major exhibitions include solo shows at Tate Britain and National Gallery, London; Arsenal Contemporary, New York; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Kunsthalle zu Kiel, and Kunstpalais Erlangen, Germany; KWM Art Center, Beijing; and HOME, Manchester. Maclean represented Scotland at the Venice Biennale in 2017 with her film commission *Spite Your Face*. Her work has been featured in major group exhibitions at Somerset House and the V&A, London; National Gallery of Prague; Science Gallery Singapore; Bangkok Art Biennale; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Mito ArtTower, Tokyo; and National Galleries of Scotland, among others. Maclean's first permanent outdoor installation, *upside mimi !u!u umop*, is on permanent display at Jupiter Artland, Scotland.

Rachel Maclean lives and works in Glasgow.