



THE HOLY GRAIL

106 NEW OXFORD STREET

'The Holy Grail' explores the human desire to confront our deepest fears to find fulfilment. As the legend goes, when the knights of King Arthur begin their quest to find the grail, they were guided by Merlin to find the darkest part of the wood to begin their journey. The artists in this show mirror this journey in their practice, by exploring some of the more shadowy parts of the psyche to try to understand the whole.

The grail signifies a stage of development of the human spirit, when man is no longer satisfied with the materialistic view or with the effectiveness of working things but goes beyond this and endows the concrete with a symbolic meaning.

—Emma Jung and Maria von Franz

Symbolic meaning emanates from all the work in the show. This resonates as we come out of lock down, where tactility was absent, plans put on hold, and we were collectively confronted with our own personal meaning after being separated from our collective meaning in the world of work and day to day society. However, this experience of meaning is not a thing like a cup or bowl, but the feeling of doing the right thing at the right time, whether that is making art or exhibiting it or even the process of the two.

Humanity has taken its search for meaning from the macro to the microscopic level, searching to understand our purpose within the universes' constituent parts. Oppenheimer split the very foundations of the universe in half to find unlimited energy. But, as with Oppenheimer, this quest has its light and dark side, as Richard Feynman elegantly said:

To every man is given the key to the gates of heaven. The same key opens the gates of hell.

The pandemic has forced us to reconsider our meaning, so how will we emerge from this moment in history, what is our holy grail now?

ARTISTS

DALE ADCOCK
JON BAKER
DAVID COOPER
ADAM DIX
HESTER FINCH
ROSIE GIBBENS
HUGO HARRIS+HANNAH LIM

WILL HUGHES
HARMINDER JUDGE
JONATHAN KELLY
ANA MILENKOVIC
ANOUSHA PAYNE
MIROSLAV POMICHAL
CHANTAL POWELL

ABOUT OHSH

OHSH Projects was conceived in 2021 from the desire to create tactile conversations between artists and spaces, by Henry Hussey and Sophia Olver. The project has currently taken up residence at 106 New Oxford Street, a former restaurant, appropriated and transformed to present art in the centre of London. OHSH Projects is a collage of ideas explored through the artists we work with and the dialogues that emerge between their processes.

EXHIBITION DATES

04.06.21 - 26.06.21

PV: FRIDAY 4 JUNE | 4PM - 8PM

VISITING HOURS

THURSDAY - SATURDAY | 12PM - 6PM

OR BY APPOINTMENT

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THE HOLY GRAIL ARTISTS

DALE ADCOCK

b. 1980. Lives and works in London.

'All my work emerges through my imagination, from the quicksilver flashes to the slow, stately disappearances. I express what I can capture in this moody, mutable landscape.' Dale lives and works in London. Studied BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting at Wimbledon School of Art (2003). MA in Fine art from Chelsea College of Art & Design (2005). Adcock has exhibited at TJ Bolting, Transition Gallery, Saatchi Gallery, Beers, and ID Gallery, Hong Kong.

DAVID COOPER

b. 1972, Wakefield, UK.

David currently lives and works in Suffolk. He studied fashion at John Moores University followed by an MA in Fashion Design at Central Saint Martins where he went on to become lead designer and head of menswear at Alexander McQueen. More recently David attended Fine Art summer school at the Slade School of Fine Art in 2008. Works have been exhibited extensively in the UK including The Jerwood Drawing Prize in 2014 and most recently as part of Anima Mundi's 'Beyond Ourselves'.

HESTER FINCH

b. 1981, London, UK.

Hester uses the female nude as the starting point to express a psychological narrative from an autobiographical perspective. Better known for her use of soft pastel, in 2020 she also began exploring the possibilities of printmaking, specifically etching and drypoint. Hester has exhibited internationally and studied at the Ruskin School of Art (1999-2002). Hester has had multiple solo exhibitions 'The Portrait of a Lady II', Jessica Carlisle, House of St Barnabas, London (2016) 'The Portrait of a Lady I', David Krut Project Space with Jessica Carlisle, New York (2015), 'Alone in Berlin', Jessica Carlisle, London (2014). And most recently exhibited in the group exhibition 'Birth', TJ Boulting, London (2019). She lives and works in London.

HUGO HARRIS + HANNAH LIM

b.1996 b.1998. Live and work in London, UK.

Hugo Harris and Hannah Lim began collaborating with each other whilst studying at Edinburgh College of Art. Their latest series of works are a continuation of a project combining their own practices in response to individual Royal Scottish Academy research scholarships in Florence. They both became interested in the way that patronage is weaved into the design of family commissioned side-chapels and by the religious objects within them. These works display a blend of Hannah's practice, which she uses to explore concepts of cultural identity through sculptural design, and Hugo's, which is primarily concerned with the mechanisms of the human body. This series of work was first shown as part of an off-site collaborative show with Harlesden High Street and Underground Flower.

JON BAKER

Lives and works in London, UK.

Jon makes large macro cameras, photographing directly onto huge sheets of photo paper. The images are large, glossy and bright. He alters scale, making small things big, Jon's images appear to reference the body. His work has been exhibited at the Serpentine Gallery, Parasol Unit and the Caitlin Prize. Jon has had multiple solo exhibitions 'Chewed Pink Owl', London (2019), 'Piss, Plants, Plastic', London (2018) 'Magic Control', London (2017) and 'Gape', Photofusion development award, London (2015).

ADAM DIX

Lives and works in London, UK.

Adam's paintings are deceptively benign on first glance; the subtle densely layered oil glazes, nostalgic imagery and well-handed colour bring together a world depicting community and ritual, whilst traversing the landscape of analogue and digital medias through a blend of traditional folk customs, religious ceremony and contemporary communication. Adam studied a BA (Hons) in Graphics and Illustration in 1990 at Middlesex and in 2009 an MA in Fine Art at Wimbledon College of Art.

ROSIE GIBBENS

b. 1993, London, UK.

Rosie makes performances, videos and sculptures. She uses absurdity in an attempt to unravel various elements of contemporary culture; particularly gender performativity, consumerist desire and their overlaps. She approaches her work as perverse advertisements or product demonstrations, where the term 'sex sells' is interpreted overly literally. Rosie's work has been shown at London galleries including Saatchi, Somerset House, Bow Arts, South London Gallery, Barbican and Elephant West. She holds a masters degree in Contemporary Art Practice: Performance from the Royal College of Art (2018) and Ba in Performance Design and Practice from Central Saint Martins (2015).

WILL HUGHES

b. 1993. Lives and works in North East England.

Will is a Multi-Disciplinary artist and studio holder at The Auxiliary in Middlesbrough. Will's work is Conceptually driven by lived experiences as a queer, non binary person in the UK. They explore human themes such as touch, belonging and sensuality, through the use of everyday and constructed objects, as well as lyrics which title the works. In 2018 they Graduated with a BA in Fine Art from Bath School of Art and in 2021 graduated with an MFA from the BxNU institute in Newcastle. In 2018 they were awarded the Kenneth Armitage young sculptor prize. Will has exhibited nationally and internationally and has an upcoming residency at BB15 in Austria.



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HARMINDER JUDGE

b. 1982. Lives and works in London.

Harminder is an artist working across multiple media, especially performance, sculpture, painting and installation. He completed his BA at Northumbria University in 2005 and received a postgraduate diploma from the Royal Academy Schools in 2020. Harminder's work has engaged with many subjects but there is a continuous exploration of portals, be it spiritual, political, or personal. He has shown in spaces such as The Royal Academy, London; Halle 14 Centre For Contemporary Art, Leipzig; IKON Gallery, Birmingham; CCA Warsaw and The New Art Gallery Walsall.

ANA MILENKOVIC

b. 1988, Belgrade, Serbia.

Ana holds an MFA from Wimbledon College of Art, London, as well as MA and BA from Faculty of Fine Art, Belgrade. She has had solo and two-person shows at Three Works (with Ana Milencovic), Ravnikar Gallery Space (Ljubljana), School Gallery (London), Novembar Gallery (Belgrade), Aqbar Space (London), Payne/Shurvell (London) and Clifford Chance LLP (London). Milenkovic has also exhibited in group shows at Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery (London), Super Dutchess Gallery (New York), Object Space Gallery (Spokane), Arusha Gallery (Edinburgh), The Koppel Project Central (London). Milenkovic is the recipient of UAL/Clifford Chance Sculpture Award, Griffin Art Prize and Prize for Innovation from the Milos Bajic Fund.

MIROSLAV POMICHAL

Lives and works in London and Sherborne, Dorset, where he teaches art history.

Miroslav holds his MFA, Wimbledon College of Art and a BA, Honours, Art History, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London. His work is found in numerous private and public collections, including the Ingram Collection, UK and Benetton Foundation collection. The artist has had solo shows at Three Works (with Ana Milenkovic), Scarborough 2020, Kun Kelemen Fine Art, Bratislava, 2017, Flatgallery, Bratislava, 2016 and Canal, London, 2016. He has participated in over thirty group shows including at the Saatchi Gallery, London; Slate Projects, London; The Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, Bosse & Baum Gallery, London, The Lightbox Museum and Gallery Woking, The World Museum, Liverpool and The Leopold Museum, Vienna.

JONATHAN KELLY

b. 1988, Hereford, UK.

Jonathan is a British painter living and working in London. His bold and often multilayered paintings employ pared down recognisable elemental motifs and figures that reference our very early ancestors, the fundamentals of the human condition and the perennial search for an essential truth. He is a graduate of the Royal Academy Schools (2017) and Wimbledon College of Art (2011). He has had two solo exhibitions, 'Idol Hands' at IVI, London (2016) and 'Waiving Not Drowning' at Griffin Gallery, London (2014). He has been involved in group exhibitions at Herrick Gallery, Tripp Gallery, Piccadilly Arcade, JM Finn, Ionne & Mann, Royal Academy of Art, John Martin Gallery, Construction Gallery and Continental Operations Gallery (London) Six Gallery (Bournemouth) and The Pipe Factory (Glasgow).

ANOUSHA PAYNE

Lives and works in London.

Anousha's work explores cultural identity through the interweaving of folktales, mythology, personal experience and fictional narratives. Alongside this her work questions material hierarchies and animism (the notion that objects have spiritual agency). She graduated from Camberwell with a BA in Sculpture in 2014. Upcoming exhibitions include a duo at The Fores Project and a group show at Arusha Gallery (Edinburgh) in July, the second iteration of Vessels in Athens in September, and a duo show at Cooke Latham in December.

CHANTAL POWELL

b. 1977. Lives and works in West Dorset, UK.

Chantal works with the language of the unconscious to create symbolic works about the unseen aspects of our psyche. A PhD in social psychology and an ongoing study of Jungian theory and alchemical research inform her practice. She was shortlisted for the Mark Tanner Sculpture Award in 2015 and has exhibited at venues including the Guildhall Art Gallery London, collateral events at the 53rd and 54th Venice Biennales, and is currently working on a curatorial project with the Ingram Collection of Modern British Art. She is the founder of the contemporary arts program Hogchester Arts.