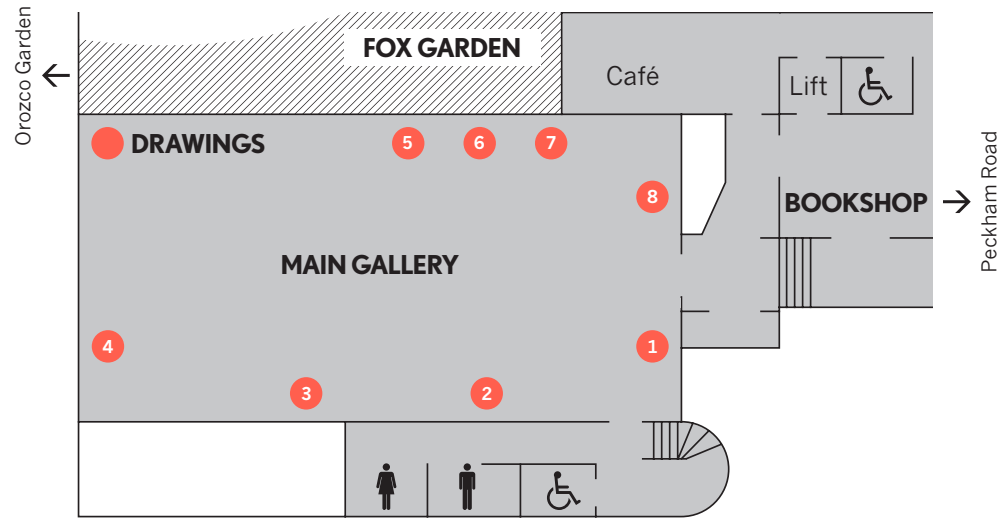


FLOOR PLAN



FIND OUT MORE

Please visit the SLG website for additional information and a downloadable PDF of the exhibition guide:
www.southlondongallery.org/exhibitions/christina-quarles-in-likeness/

You can watch an interview with Christina in her LA studio on our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/SouthLondonGallery

Photography

Please note, some of the works on display cannot be photographed.



This exhibition was organised with The Hepworth Wakefield.

Supported by Cockayne – Grants for the Arts; The London Community Foundation; Pilar Corrias, London; Hauser & Wirth; Peter Dubens and Timothy Roy Tan

COCKAYNE

The London Community Foundation

This gallery guide is printed on recycled paper.

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CHRISTINA QUARLES IN LIKENESS



Christina Quarles, *For a Flaw / For a Fall / For the End*, 2018.
Courtesy the artist and Pilar Corrias, London. Photo: Damian Griffiths.

SLG

CHRISTINA QUARLES: IN LIKENESS 18 JUN - 29 AUG 2021 MAIN GALLERY, MAIN BUILDING

This exhibition brings together LA-based artist Christina Quarles' vibrant and textured paintings, as well as works on paper, and is her first solo exhibition in a major London institution. She creates surreal and deliberately ambiguous images of bodies that seem barely contained by the frame of the canvas. The figures in her expressive, large-scale paintings embody her perspective on the world and she has described them as conveying 'the experience of living in a body rather than looking at a body'.

Using the extent of her own arm's reach as a measure, Quarles uses a broad range of painting techniques to render entwined bodies with contorted limbs. Choosing to work in an intuitive, gestural way, she embarks on each new painting without preparatory sketches so that the compositions unfold through the making process. She revels in the indeterminate gender of the bodies she depicts, and the tendency of viewers to impose their own interpretations onto whatever they see. These bodies exist within and against abstracted environments created through the stencilling of motifs from a variety of sources, sometimes playing on fabrics and patterns that might stereotypically be associated with femininity and domestic space.

The reading of Quarles' compositions is left open for the viewer to resolve. Facial features are obscured and skin is

rendered in a spectrum of shifting colour. These painted figures elude definition in reference to Quarles' own experience as a queer cis multiracial woman, who is often presumed to be white despite having a black father and white mother. The potential for misreadings and multiple meanings are further underscored by Quarles' play on words in the titles of both her drawings and paintings. Taken from songs, poems or other texts she encounters, the titles also reveal some of the literary, musical and autobiographical references that underpin her work.

Artist's biography

Christina Quarles (b. 1985 Chicago, USA) currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She received an MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2016, and holds a BA from Hampshire College. Quarles was a 2016 participant at the Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture and was the inaugural recipient of the 2019 Pérez Art Museum Miami Prize.

Recent exhibitions include:

Christina Quarles, MCA Chicago (2021); *Dance by the Light of the Moon*, X Museum, Beijing (2021); *I Won't Fear Tumbling or Falling / If We'll be Joined in Another World*, Pilar Corrias, London (2020); *But I Woke Jus' Tha Same*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles (2019) among others.

LIST OF WORKS

1.
Day 'Fore Night, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
127 × 106.7
The Abrishamchi Family Collection

2.
Casually Cruel, 2018
Acrylic on canvas
195.5 × 243.8 cm
Tate: Presented by Peter Dubens 2019

3.
For a Flaw/ For a Fall/ For the End, 2018
Acrylic on canvas
139.7 × 243.8 cm
Courtesy of the artist and
Pilar Corrias, London

4.
Yew Brought it Up, 2018
Acrylic on canvas
139.7 × 218.4 cm
Collection of Aishti Foundation,
Beirut, Lebanon

5.
Sumday (We Gunna Rest on) Sunday, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
182.9 × 243.8
Collection of Aishti Foundation,
Beirut, Lebanon

6.
Carefully Taut, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
213.4 × 243.8
Ovitz Family Collection, Los Angeles

7.
By Tha Skin of Our Tooth, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
195.6 × 243.8
Ovitz Family Collection, Los Angeles

8.
Let Us In Too (Tha Light), 2018
Acrylic on canvas
182.9 × 152.4 cm
Private Collection

DRAWINGS Clockwise from top left

Ups N' Downs, 2021
Ink on paper
33 × 48.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist, Pilar Corrias,
London, and Hauser & Wirth

Well Enuff, 2021
Ink on paper
33 × 48.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist, Pilar Corrias,
London, and Hauser & Wirth

Gone N' Left Yew, 2021
Ink on paper
33 × 48.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist, Pilar Corrias,
London, and Hauser & Wirth

Cat Lamp, 2021
Ink on paper
33 × 48.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist, Pilar Corrias,
London, and Hauser & Wirth

Great, A Brand New Day, 2021
Ink on paper
33 × 48.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist, Pilar Corrias,
London, and Hauser & Wirth

Living' to See Yew, 2021
Ink on paper
33 × 48.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist, Pilar Corrias,
London, and Hauser & Wirth

Sun (Soon We'll Be Okay), 2021
Ink on paper
33 × 48.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist, Pilar Corrias,
London, and Hauser & Wirth

Half Full (Awful), 2021
Ink on paper
33 × 48.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist, Pilar Corrias,
London, and Hauser & Wirth