

PRESS RELEASE

La Madeleine de Proust

An exhibition of contemporary painting inspired by the involuntary memory of Proust's madeleine

Vivienne Roberts Projects is pleased to present **La Madeleine de Proust**, on view from **25 November 2025 to 16 January 2026**.

This exhibition brings together contemporary painters whose work explores the sudden, transformative power of involuntary memory - that mysterious leap from sensation to revelation made famous by Marcel Proust's experience of tasting a small, tea-soaked madeleine.

At the centre of the exhibition lies that fleeting instant when a simple flavour unlocks an interior world beyond time, logic, or conscious thought. The artists in *La Madeleine de Proust* recognise that creative insight often emerges not through intention or mastery, but through accident, intuition, and a willingness to let go. A colour, a surface, a brushstroke - any one of these might act as a catalyst, summoning something half-buried yet vividly present.

Philip Guston once suggested that true painting becomes possible only when all influences - teachers, history, friends, even the artist's own ego - have quietly left the room. In such a moment of absence, thinking is suspended, and the work arises from a more liberated, unguarded space within.

This exhibition invites viewers into precisely that space: intimate, fragile, and charged with the uncanny recognition that arrives unbidden.

Just as a taste can conjure a forgotten past, so a painting can draw us beyond explanation and into the realm of pure experience - where meaning dawns unexpectedly, as if out of the blue.

Exhibition Dates: 25 November 2025 – 16 January 2026

Gallery: Vivienne Roberts Projects

Location: The Bindery, 53 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8HN

Opening Reception: 25 November, 6.15 - 8.15pm

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 11am - 5pm (or by appointment)

Press & Sales Enquiries

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High-resolution images and interviews with the artist available on request.

JUSTINE FORMENTELLI

Justine Formentelli was born in France in 1973, but spent her childhood living on the island of Reunion, in the Caribbean and in Morocco. Her nomadic beginnings still influence her work in her colour palette, the intricacy of her marks and a sense of movement. After

11 years in the United States where she studied Illustration and worked as a production designer at Harper's Bazaar, she traveled around the world for a year before settling back in Europe. She is now based in London with her husband and two sons. She received a BA (Honours) in Illustration and Communication Design at the Atlanta College of Arts in 1998 and graduated with an MA in Fine Art with distinction, from City and Guilds of London Art School in 2018. She is now based in South London and works from her studio in Brixton.

She has participated in numerous exhibitions in the United States, Europe and Dubai. Her work has been selected for the Royal Watercolour Society Open 24, the ING Prize 2022, Works on paper II at Blue Shop Cottage 2020 and is now included in Soho House art collection as well as many private collections around the world.

NICK FOX

Fox's work and research draws on queer histories, folklore, myth, literature, personal and subcultural symbols that speak to narratives and thresholds of desire, longing and to the complexities of intimate personal relationships, giving rise to a keen sense both of the pleasures and the limits of double meanings in the construction of codes.

In his visual art practice, Fox explores relationships, between raw sentiment and its symbolic, visual and material articulation through painting, drawing, object d'art, cyanotype photograms, sculptural installation and participatory projects. *The work* gives form to ideas of transition, transformation, and to the uncertainty with communicating and connecting across the emotional spectrum.

Fox has exhibited extensively nationally and internationally. Solo exhibitions include *You make me feel*, FILET Space London (2023); *Half-light*, Vane Newcastle (2016); *Nightsong*, Touring from Norway (2012) to Newcastle and London (2015), *Phantasieblume* London (2009) touring to Newcastle and Norway.

In 2015 Fox presented *BadSeed*, a survey exhibition of over 100 works as part of Queer Season the first LGBTQ festival at Sutton House, National Trust. Fox was a Recipient of the Jerwood Contemporary Painters Award (2007), and in 2010, he was a prizewinner of the John Moores Painting Prize, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

His work has produced two artist monographs, 'Nick Fox: Phantasieblume', published by Centre for Recent Drawing and Art Editions North (2010) and *Nick Fox Nightsong* published by Art Editions North (2013).

In 2023, Fox performed/DJ'd *Longing Disco*, a Live participatory project exploring the symbolic role of loss and music as a transformative tool for human relationships, at EMST - National Gallery of Contemporary Art, Athens.

Nick Fox has Work in numerous private and public collections Including the collections of the Walker Art Gallery Liverpool, Museum of Contemporary Art, London, Jean Pigozzi, Jigsaw, David Roberts Foundation, AN Magazine, and Sir Norman Rosenthal.

ANDREW HEWISH

Andrew Hewish (b.1973) is a London-based contemporary artist and curator. He has exhibited (and his work is collected) internationally. His practice focuses on painting, drawing and sculpture and the possibilities of ecology, site, studio and the line. He holds a PhD from the Royal College of Art (RCA) and is a Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at the School of Art, Architecture and Design (formerly the Sir John Cass School). In 2020, he was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the arts. In 2004 he founded the Centre for Recent Drawing, a UK charity which has curated over 100 exhibitions in drawing and where he remains as Executive Director. He sits on the board of Poetry School, a UK charity, and has previously curated the public engagement in research and exhibition programme at the Warburg Institute, University of London, and has been a Visiting Academic at the University of Oxford's Ruskin School of Art.

PHILL HOPKINS

Phill Hopkins (b.1961) is a British contemporary artist whose versatile practice has a multifaceted nature. He has created a body of work that is remarkably diverse, yet is firmly rooted within a complex and coherent artistic strategy. He is predominantly a painter, who makes drawings and photographs, and sometimes makes sculpture. He works with a range of media, from the traditional to the unconventional.

Hopkins was brought-up in a working class family in Bristol, in southwest England. Although school was difficult he excelled at art, but did not experience the world of art beyond the classroom until accidentally visiting The Arnolfini gallery when he was fifteen. After working in a warehouse and a bakery he was accepted by Goldsmiths College of Art in London. Hopkins has exhibited in museums and galleries including The Imperial War Museum, Kettles Yard, Laing Art Gallery, The Whitworth Art Gallery, Leeds Art Gallery, John Hansard Gallery, The Usher Gallery, The Henry Moore Centre for the Study of Sculpture, The Sherwin Collection, The Hepworth Wakefield, Nanjing Baijia Lake International Culture Investment Group, China, The Hungarian Museum of Photography, Kecskemet, Stadt Dortmund, Germany, Henry Moore Centre for the Study of Sculpture, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Doncaster Museums & Art Gallery. His work can be found in private collections in the UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and China.

JO LEWIS

Jo Lewis's recent watercolours reach a profound yet understated place, echoing the mirrored, poetic structure of the haiku in a series of twenty paintings that explore the boundaries of a pre-defined space, within which she turns toward the most essential elements; while her wider practice includes large-scale watercolour and ink works often made in or near bodies of water, here those environmental influences recede, the mark-making pared back to its essence, the palette restrained, the scale intimate.

Jo Lewis (b. 1967) is a London-based artist working primarily in ink and watercolour on paper, whose recent exhibitions include *La Madeleine de Proust*, Vivienne Roberts Projects, group show, 2025; *Haiku*, Vivienne Roberts Projects, online solo show, 18 November 2025; *Espace Fluide*, La Galerie Valérie Éymeric, Lyon, France, solo show, 2025; *Petits Formats*, La Villa Balthasar, Valence, France, group show, 2025; *Cloche, Pot-*

Écolier et Tellièrre, Galerie Papiers d'Art, Paris, group show, 2025; the touring *Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize*, 2024; and *Souffle*, Galerie Papiers d'Art, Paris, group show, 2024.

ANNA VAN OOSTEROM

Anna Van Oosterom's linear collages start from blurred urban photographs that she transfers, carves back, and layers with coloured papers, acrylics, and pastels to capture a fleeting moment suspended between anonymity and memory. Inspired by the poetic, context-less conversations she overheard while living in New York—sentences floating without beginnings or ends—she introduces hovering lines that echo this sense of drifting language. Her contemplative process yields cartographic textures and cinematic scenes in which the familiar slips into the illogical, inviting viewers to notice how she subtly bends reality, much like finding shapes in clouds. Drawing on impressions of trains, stations, and the strange beauty of subway solitude, she creates dreamlike spaces where everyday encounters become quietly lyrical. This sensibility threads through her exhibitions, including the two-person show *Torn* with Mary Norden at Vivienne Roberts Projects (2024), the solo shows *Binnenkijken* (The Hague, 2019) and *Current Work* (New York, 2016), and many international group exhibitions.

MIROSLAV POMICHAL

A masterful contemporary painter and printmaker, Miroslav Pomichal lives and works in London, Sherborne and Slovakia. The artist's impressive oeuvre is distinguished by a sculptural treatment of the picture plane. Architectonic impasto like gestural forms translate into cubic expressiveness reminding one of the work of artists like Philip Guston as well as classic forms of modernism such as Russian Constructivism, Cubism and the gothic armature, broken lines and kinetic energies of German Expressionism. A highly collectible contemporary artist, Pomichal was selected for the 2014 Saatchi New Sensations exhibit and his work is found in the Ingram Collection of Modern British Art as well as select private collections.

Recent exhibitions include 2024: *Buried*, OHS Projects, Thames-Side Studios Gallery, London, 2024: *Bread*, OHS Projects, Peckham Arches, London, 2023-24: An Exhibition of SMALL things with BIG ideas, White Conduit Projects London, 2023-24: *STABLE*, Bobinska Brownlee New River, London, 2023, *Don't Look Back*, Vivienne Roberts Projects, The Bindery, London

PEN REID

Pen Reid gained her Masters of Fine Art in Painting and Printmaking (1991-1993) at the Art Institute of Chicago on an International Peace Scholarship. On graduating she was awarded the Institute's Ryerson Travelling Scholarship and the Austin Museum's Juror's Award. Recent Acquisitions include Art in Healthcare.

Reid has exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy, RSA annual exhibition, VAS and Scottish Society of Artists 2023, Panter & Hall and Thompsons in London. The Union Gallery, The Open Eye Gallery, Inverleith House and the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh. Abroad in Chicago and Austin. Her most recent solo show 'Behind the Curtain' was May 2023 at The Compass Gallery, Glasgow.

JON RIDGE

Jon Ridge is a painter. He was born in 1968 in Guildford and now lives and works in London.

Ridge's painted environments demonstrate a visual vocabulary developed over many years, that he deploys in service to his interest in the push and pull between abstraction and figuration.

It's the nuances and nudges at the biting point of visual information that interest him, there almost as a catalyst for the viewer's imagination, deliberately inconclusive, not as a way of shutting out the audience, quite the contrary, it's his desire to propagate a million different 'correct' readings.

Ridge's former career in graphic design and art direction within advertising—where creative work is often compromised once the client takes control - led him to seek a different kind of creative engagement. This move prompted his later studies at Chelsea College of Art (2004–2009). His background in commercial design proved valuable, bringing with it a graphic sensibility and a tendency toward reduction of form that enriched his painting. Unlike advertising, painting allowed Ridge to be utterly creatively uncompromising - a liberating experience.

Ridge regularly exhibits in group shows in London and further afield. His work is held in many private collections worldwide.

FIONA G. ROBERTS

Fiona G. Roberts lives and works in London. She has an MA, Painting, from Wimbledon College of Arts, University of the Arts London, where she was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Scholarship. She has also completed two years at the Turps Banana Painting School (2019-2021) on the offsite painting programme. She has had work shortlisted for the Jerwood Drawing Prize; Ingram Collection's Contemporary Talent Prize; Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize, 2018 and 2019 and Dentons Art Prize, where she was runner-up and also won the Staff Prize. She was also shortlisted for the Ruth Borchard Self Portrait Prize 2021 and the 2021 Figurative Art Now Exhibition, where she was awarded a Mentorship Prize. Her work has been exhibited in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2021, 2023 and 2025. She also has degrees from the LSE and Goldsmiths, University of London.

JONATHAN SCHOFIELD

Jonathan Schofield was born in Manchester in 1970. He has been based in London for over 25 years. He completed his MA in Fine Art (Painting) at the Royal College of Art, Kensington, where he was taught by renowned artists including Peter Doig, John Stezaker, Sean Scully, and Helen Chadwick. His degree show sold out, earning him a distinction, and his work entered several permanent collections, including the RCA's own. Following his studies, Schofield was awarded a prestigious scholarship to spend six weeks painting in Asilah, Morocco, and later undertook painting sabbaticals at studio residencies in Paris and Rome. He also spent a formative summer painting in New York.

After graduating, Schofield built a highly successful career as a Creative Director before returning to painting full-time in 2014. His work quickly began to attract a growing audience and collectors, aided by the democratising reach of social media. Schofield's often large-scale paintings are now held in private collections across Copenhagen, Germany, the United States, and London. He currently works from his studio in Hackney, London.