

DANNIELLE HODSON

TWO IMPOSTERS
MARCH 2023

Two Imposters

Four You Gallery is delighted to present 'Two Imposters', an exhibition of new paintings by the London-based artist Dannielle Hodson. The show takes its title from a line in Rudyard Kipling's 'If—' (c.1895), a poem which characterizes "Triumph and Disaster" not as contrasting extremes of personal experience, but as a pair of twin "imposters", to be met with the same unruffled equanimity. Kipling's attempt to perceive a deeper unity behind apparent polar opposites finds a chime in Hodson's canvases. These are works that demand we suspend conventional approaches to reading the painted image, and see beyond established pictorial binaries – not only figuration and abstraction, but also foreground and background, centre and periphery, composition and detail, colour and form.

Hodson's paintings are born of a process of spontaneous, almost automatic mark making, from which recognizable motifs begin to emerge when the layers of pigment on her support achieve a critical mass. Looking at these works, they feel less planned than somehow channeled, as though their fractured, dreamlike narratives were not quite her invention, but rather visions she had received, like the 18th century artist and poet William Blake glimpsing angels in the trees of Peckham Rye. (Hodson has cited Blake as an ambient influence on this body of paintings, alongside the thought of Carl Jung, Ursula Le Guin's 1968–2001 sequence of Earthsea books, and John Fowles' 1965 novel *The Magus*. If there is a common denominator to these co-ordinates, it is a focus on the nature of illusion, and how stories shape reality).



Imposter I, 2023
Oil on linen
80 x 70 cm



Queeny, 2023
Oil on canvas
80 x 70 cm



Summer Through Winter, 2022
Oil on linen
80 x 70 cm



Enigma, 2023
Oil and charcoal and oil pastel on linen
150 x 120 cm



Masque, 2023
Oil, oil pastel and charcoal on canvas
100 x 100 cm

The title of Hodson's exhibition is echoed in two portrait works, *Imposter One* (2022–23) and *Imposter Two* (2022–23). Given that portraiture is a genre bound up with the notion of providing an authentic likeness of a real-life sitter, we might wonder what it means for these figures to be labelled thus. Have they performed some kind identity theft? This seems unlikely, given that they're product of Hodson's imagination, and have no flesh and blood counterparts. Considering their absurd, attention-hungry garments and their weirdly unstable physiognomies, perhaps the only deception they practice is self-deception, and even that is beginning to unravel. Are the two Imposters suffering from imposter syndrome? If so, it's of a piece with Hodson's wider project, in which triumph and disaster shade indistinguishably into one another, and the self – like bodies, like the endlessly mutable stuff of paint – is always in flux.



Imposter II, 2023
Oil on linen
76 x 61 cm



The Artist is Present, 2022
Oil, oil bar, pastel and charcoal on canvas
153 x 153 cm

A Lot Can and Does, 2023
Oil and charcoal on canvas
180 x 130 cm





Something that wasn't, 2023
Oil, oil bar and charcoal on linen
170 x 180 cm

DANIELLE HODSON

Dannielle Hodson (born 1980, lives and works in London) was educated at Central St. Martins, London (BA Womenswear Fashion Design, MA Fine Art) and is a graduate of the Turps Banana studio painting programme. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at galleries and public institutions including: 'Dannielle Hodson: A triumph of Life', Four You Gallery, Paris (solo, 2022); 'Dannielle Hodson: Another Kind of Life', Four You Gallery, Paris (solo, 2021); 'Miniscule Venice', satellite programme 58th Venice Biennale (2019, in association with Cross Lane Projects); 'An Art School', Tate Exchange at Tate Modern (2017), and the National Open Art Competition 2016, Mercer's Hall, London, where she won the Roy Pace Award. She is a Trustee of the contemporary art charity Outside In.





ABOUT THE GALLERY

In an attempt to transpose the gender inequality that continues to persist in the art world, Four You gallery exclusively showcases the work of female artists. Four You Gallery is a travel venue-by-appointment that showcases contemporary art. It offers female artists a global audience, whilst allowing art enthusiasts to discover thoughtfully curated artworks produced by international talents.

Apparent is the lack of representation of female artists in galleries, as well as the exclusion of women from the mainstream art market. Four You gallery intends to provide a platform for the overlooked; offering a space that encourages cross-discipline dialogue led solely by women aiming to inflict change. Dedicated to the artist and regardless of their nationality, medium, or career-status, Four You Gallery hopes to celebrate, support and empower.

Curated for you – whether a casual enthusiast or passionate collector – we carefully select artists with distinct and bold styles. We wish to captivate and inspire, by casting the spotlight on stimulating women in art.

FOUR YOU
Gallery

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