

ANIMA MUNDI



I Have Sold My Soul For This Pint (And I Have No Regrets), raw pigment, acrylic & oil on canvas, 167 x 304 cm

PRESS CONTACT

Jamie Mills & Kyra Harris
mail@animamundigallery.com
+44 (0)1736 793121

PRESS RELEASE

Faye Eleanor Woods

'The Grass Are Green,

The Flowers Is Brown And Crimson'

EXHIBITION DATES: 27 October - 8 December 2023

PREVIEW EVENING: Friday 27 October, 6.30 - 8.30 PM

WHERE: Anima Mundi, Street-an-Pol, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2DS

WEBSITE: www.animamundigallery.com

"Go on, jump!

No.

Jump, jump!

No. The grass are green, the flowers

is brown and crimson, so I shall not.

And besides, two centimetres is not

far even if you are small.

I command you to jump.

Alright, I shall jump. But you are a

fool, because I am stuck and you

know it. You stuck me."

— *'Go On Jump'*, Ivor Cutler, 1967

Faye Eleanor Woods sensual paintings act as a love letter to her own experience, full of life's joy, absurdity, humour, loss and fear. Using raw pigments and acrylic ink she forces rich colour into the grain of the canvas, blurring edges with copious amounts of water or using thin layers of oil to blend the figures with their backgrounds creating an ethereal presence. As Woods says "I try to bring attention to the surreal aspects of life and the way the oddness of experience manifests within individuals and how that manifestation then affects me. In my vulnerability I crave strange moments of intimacy. I imagine drinking straight from the tap of all emotion, drinking so much of it, I take on too much and I'm sick and everything I spew out ends up in my work."

Inherently influenced by British folklore and folk horror, Wood's paintings tell their own tales rooted in corporeal experience which then becomes heightened or exaggerated resulting in a form of magical realism. A spirit of excess runs throughout the scenes that she depicts. Empowered yet vulnerable, the behaviour of paint sensualises her ruby red mouths, flushed cheeks, pert nipples and knees rubbed raw. Dancing, leaping, cavorting figures in various states of consciousness or undress, partake in a bacchanale which defies the hypocrisy of supposed propriety and convention, challenging the stiff upper lip. Eyes shine with ecstatic bewitchment as her animalistic protagonists dance and leap in a debauched state which teeters on the fine line edge between calamity and joy. What is conveyed is the relatable oddness that exists between the magical and the mundane. I am reminded of folk horror writer Arthur Machan who once said "Strangeness which is the essence of beauty is the essence of truth, and the essence of the world."

A lot of the works depict a state of ritualistic intoxication, where the prosaic setting of the pub or club acts as a tangible stage for otherly experience. These are places within our society which exist seemingly independently from the outside realm of the humdrum or everyday. They can be wild places where one can get 'out of their heads', where what occurs within the walls appears unburdened by the expectations of buttoned up convention. Wood's states "I often think of visiting a 'local' in a small town on holiday and how much I like the judgement of the townspeople, the odd traditions, the sense of the history of the place baked into the carpets along with the spilled ales. For the wild and lost it is a place of sanctity, taking on a role once fulfilled in Britain by the church".

Woods obsession with ritual may stem from long cold church masses spent with her Catholic Grandma as a child, but she was also raised by Pagan parents who she says "spent many sleepless nights still or in motion around bonfires." This interesting dichotomy has ultimately led to an anxious attachment to the dramatics of worship and the otherworldly. Woods jokes that "It helped that the blood of Christ was often cheap brandy, something which has always had a very visceral appeal!"

These works also depict the natural landscape, away from the civised gaze of society, where field or forest becomes stage for further abandon. Trees twist and flora takes on a sense of sentience. She states her "attempt to recreate the feeling of being both lost and yet found in the wild. It is as though those that can thrive in the wild can become embedded". These landscapes feel both simultaneously mystical and terrestrial, portraying the unnerving psychogeography of rural Britain.

I hope that these works challenge you by lifting a guarded veil and presenting the messy pleasure and pain of living. For wood's this exhibition of paintings is a tangible form of inner catharsis. I am reminded of Charles Bukowski who once wrote "Drinking is an emotional thing. It joggles you out of the standardism of everyday life, out of everything being the same. It yanks you out of your body and your mind and throws you against the wall. I have the feeling that drinking is a form of suicide where you're allowed to return to life and begin all over the next day. It's like killing yourself, and then you're reborn. I guess I've lived about ten or fifteen thousand lives now."

Joseph Clarke, 2023

ABOUT THE ARTIST

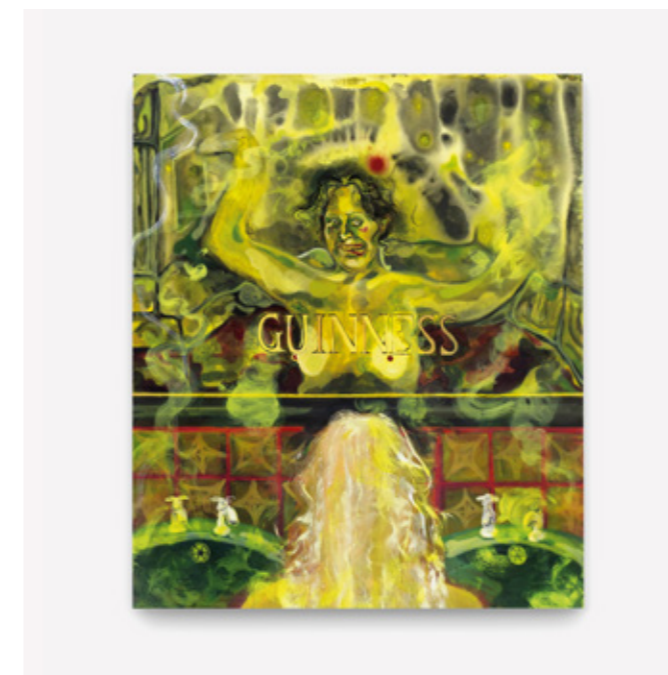
Faye Eleanor Woods is a Scottish artist currently living and working in the Calderdale Valley in West Yorkshire. Since graduation from Gray's School of Art in 2021 and being heralded by Elephant Magazine as a 'One to Watch' in its 'Pick Of The Years Most Exciting Art School Graduates' feature, her work has quickly gained acclaim and has been widely exhibited including notable selection in the Royal Scottish Academy's most recent 'New Contemporaries' exhibition. Anima Mundi are delighted to present 'The Grass are Green and the Flowers is Brown and Crimson' which is her debut solo exhibition.

ABOUT ANIMA MUNDI

Anima Mundi was founded by Joseph Clarke, who has curated in excess of 100 exhibitions over a twenty year period, working with international artists in all media. The gallery is based in a former Christian Science reading rooms in St Ives, Cornwall which was converted in to a significant gallery space. The space is one of the largest outside of London which has helped to secure Anima Mundi's international reputation for representing the very best in Contemporary art. Since its creation, Anima Mundi has strived to offer its international collectors unique access to a diverse offering of contemporary art whilst supporting its artists through collaborations with museums and art centres around the world.

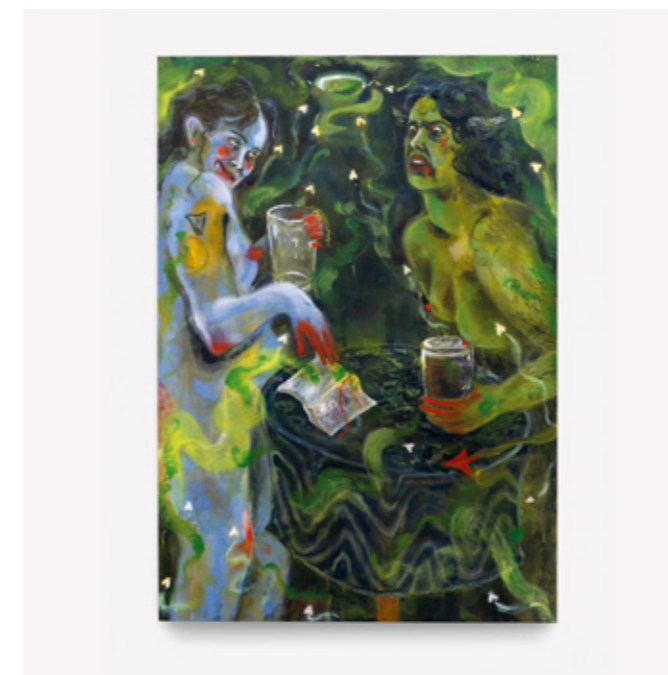
FOLLOW US : Instagram @animamundigallery #animamundigallery

IMAGE LIST :



Oh No! It's Her!,

raw pigment, acrylic & oil on canvas, 127 x 107 cm



She Out Drank the Devil

raw pigment, acrylic & oil on canvas, 117 x 81 cm



I Have Sold My Soul For This Pint (And I Have No Regrets)

raw pigment, acrylic & oil on canvas, 167 x 304 cm



Disco Dancin' / Havin' a Party

raw pigment, acrylic & oil on canvas, 127 x 92 cm



Havin' A Party / The Wild Rumpus

raw pigment, acrylic & oil on canvas, 150 x 225 cm



Faye Eleanor Woods

Studio 2023