

Bio

Gala Bell (b.1989) is a multidisciplinary artist based in London. The alchemy of matter is at the centre of her practice, moving between traditional practices in painting and contemporary art forms. Graduate of the Royal College of Art, she has been selected for exhibitions with The Design Museum, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The London Design Festival, The Korean Cultural Institutes in Berlin and London, Kunsthalle am Hamburger Platz Berlin and Galerie der HBKsaar in Saarsbrücken. Bell has had commissions by Tate and Lyle and Kellogg's for her sugar sculptures, with a piece acquired by the Tate and Lyle archive in London. Her work has been featured in notable publications including Sotheby's *Made in Bed Magazine* and on BBC One television, as well as participating in the live *Talk at Ten* panel discussion. She was shortlisted for the Ashurst Art Prize 2021, and was selected for Saatchi's *Rising Stars 2022*, with an added special interview feature for Saatchi's *One to Watch*. This year she was selected as an artist in residence at Buckinghamshire New University and the Villa Lena Art Foundation.

Artist Statement

Working in reverse, the image is constructed within a frame of taut silk. I paint from behind the canvas, pushing oil paint in choreographed gestures that reveal themselves on the other side, like the texture of a tapestry. Each tiny gap formed by the warp and weft of silk thread is filled with an extruded pixel of colour, resembling the organic patterns of lichens, the skin of a reptile or a galaxy. The pressing of paint unveils to us the underside of the

mark, the moment of contact between material and surface that we would never ordinarily see.

Light plays a pivotal role in the creation of the artwork, guided by the idea of *transverse orientation*, which is the behaviour of flying insects that orient themselves toward a distant source of light. Light passing through the silk serves as a guide, revealing areas where paint has not yet touched the surface; it acts as an anchor point, a signal, a place to catch the light. As the screen fills with the movement of paint, the glow from the other side is slowly obscured to the artist behind the screen. The paintings exist through their unbridled unpredictability, engaging in a dialectic that dissolves the hierarchy between painting as an illusion or imitation and painting as an archetype; a free, material process.

Gala Bell (b.1989)

Lives and Works in London

Selected Exhibitions

2023

Fresh Talent pt.1, Artistellar Gallery, viewing room, 20/09/23 - 20/10/23, London UK

Reductive Art Exhibition, Kellogg's Ltd, London UK 08/09/23 - 09/09/23 & Paris France,

15/09/23- 18/09/23

JB Gallery - viewing room - London UK, 02/02/23 - 15/03/23

Art in Hospitals, King Edward VII Hospital, Zimmer Stewart Gallery, 27/01/2023 – 01/01/2024

Villa Lena Art Foundation, Open Studio 20/08/2023

2022

Nothing is - everything just has been or will be, Korean Cultural Institute, London, UK 12/11/21

- 28/01/22

Imago Mundi, Hogarth Youth Centre, London UK 30/09/22

The Block Lisboa, Lisbon Portugal 27/12/21- 05/01/22

2021

Nothing is - everything just has been or will be, Korean Cultural Institute, Berlin, Germany

09/07/21 - 28/08/21

Shortlist for Ashurst Art Prize, Fruit and Wool Exchange Shoreditch, London 25/06/21 -

08/10/21

2020

Fountain of Hygiene pt II, Haw Parr Music, Business of Design Week, Hong Kong 30/11/20-

05/12/20

The Exhibitionist Hotel, South Kensington, London 15/12/20-31/12/20

Fry Up, Installation for Kensington and Chelsea Art Week, KCAW, 1/12/20 - 30/01/21

Fountain of Hygiene, shortlisted for Hygiene Innovation Beyond the Sanitiser, The Design Museum, London 31/07/10-04/09/20

Wave Theatre, solo show, La Galleria, Pall Mall 01-11/07/20

2019

Winter Salon, Offshoot Artspace, Highgate, 28/11/19-08/12/19

Something Written or Recorded, A Space is A Space, digital 26/11/19-05/12/19

No Captcha, Thanks, Offshoot Artspace, Highgate 20-29/09/19

Anti-Doughte, Museum of Food, Great Exhibition Road Festival, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 29/06/19

Museum Open Day, Tate and Lyle Sugar Factory, Silvertown, 22/02/19

2018^[SEP] *Mantra*, Stour Space, Hackney Wick, 10/11/18

Low Voltage Experiments, The Silver Building, Silvertown, 25-28/10/18

Transform, Mint Galery, London Design Festival, Kensington, London 15 - 29/09/18

FAM, Loft Studios, Kensal Green, London 01/06/18

Living Room, Safe House 1&2, Peckham, London 19 - 20/06/18

Thumbnails, Hockney Gallery, Kensington Gore, London 19 - 23/02/18

2017^[SEP] *Time Poor Dreamers*, Cypher Space, Wilsnacker Straße, Berlin, Germany 02 - 05/05/17

WIP Show, Royal College of Art, London 20 - 14/01/17

Crossing the Visible, New Court Gallery, Derbyshire 14/01/17 - 10/02/17

The Sacred Screen, The Square Gallery, Battersea, London 12/01/17 - 19/01/17

2016

The Londoner's Compass, The Strand Gallery, London 18 - 23/10/16

Glossary, The Safehouse, Peckham, After Projects 18 - 23/10/16

Brücke Im Dschungel IV, Galerie der HBKsaar, Saarbrücken, Germany 29/09/16 - 02/10/16

Substance Rift, House of Vans, Waterloo, London 03/05/16 - 10/05/16

2015

Brücke Im Dschungel, Kunsthalle am Hamburger Platz, Berlin, Germany 19/12/15

Rein ne vas Plus, Kunsthalle am Hamburger Platz, Berlin, Germany 04/12/15

Deptford X, Festival of Contemporary Art, London 15 - 29/09/15

The Deleted World, After Projects, 5th Base Gallery, London 25/09/15 - 04/10/15

Publications & Interviews

Observatorio Transeuropa Interview by writer Bozidar Stanisic <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org>

Sotheby's Made in Bed Magazine interview by editor in chief Rhiannon Roberts :
<https://www.madeinbed.co.uk/interviews/rhiannon-roberts-in-conversation-with-galabell>

Saatchi Art : One to Watch by Aurora Garrison: <https://canvas.saatchiart.com/art/one-to-watch/gala-bells-unconventional-methods-and-transformations>

Saatchi Rising Stars 2022 : <https://www.saatchiart.com/stories/rising-stars-2022>

Art City Works written by Olivia Wilson <https://www.artcityworks.com/blog/31-gala-bell-breaking-the-boundaries-of-art/>

Voices Radio Slingshot Live Show 10th July 11-1pm, Gala Bell in conversation with Tahmina Negmat : [Listen on Voices Radio](#)

Talk and Ten Creative Entrepreneurs and West London's Screen Industry, panel discussion: <https://westlondonbusiness.arlo.co/w/events/1119-talk-at-ten-creative-entrepreneurs>

To the Studio [interview podcast 2020: https://lnns.co/4-dsnH110If](#)

Producers Art, PArt Talk [Interview with Producers Art, PArt Talk 2020: https://www.instagram.com/p/CJwXMK8oMh9/](#)

FAD Magazine [Article in FAD Arts and Culture Magazine, Fry Up, https://fadmagazine.com/](#)

Time Out [Time Out, KCAW High Street Windows, https://www.timeout.com/](#)

KCAW [Kensington and Chelsea Art Week High Street Windows https://www.kcaw.co.uk/high-street](#)

FAD Magazine, KCAW High Street Windows, Fry UP <https://fadmagazine.com>

Collective Dry Magazine [KCAW High Street Windows, Fry UP, https://www.collectibledry.com, KCAW High Street Windows, Fry UP, https://www.collectibledry.com](#)

Royal Docks, written by Liz Bennett [Interview with The Royal Docks, https://www.royaldocks.london/articles/sculpted-from-sugar-silvertown-legend-henry-tate-gets-a-fitting-tribute](https://www.royaldocks.london/articles/sculpted-from-sugar-silvertown-legend-henry-tate-gets-a-fitting-tribute)

Art Reveal [Interview with Art Reveal, https://artrevealmagazine/docs/no34](https://artrevealmagazine/docs/no34)

Dazed Digital [Article in Dazed Digital, http://www.dazeddigital.com](http://www.dazeddigital.com)

Killscreen written by Cathy McCarthy [Article on killscreen.com](#)

Focus London [Interview with Focus LDN, http://www.focusldn.com](http://www.focusldn.com)

Italia Art Magazine [Interview with Italia Art Magazine https://www.italiaartmagazine.it](https://www.italiaartmagazine.it)

Commissions

Sugar sculpture commission for Kellogg's Ltd Reductive Art Exhibition London and Paris

Kensington and Chelsea Art Week, *High Street Windows* commissioned by Kensington and Chelsea Council

BBC One Tribe in partnership with Tate and Lyle Sugar Factory, Sir Henry Tate sugar bust for documentary commemorating Tate's 200th Birthday, January 2019

Education

2016 - 2018 Royal College of Art, MA Painting

2009 - 2012 City and Guilds of London Art School BA (hons) Fine Art Painting 1st

2008 - 2009 Foundation in Art, Diploma, City and Guilds of London Art School

Awards and Residencies

Villa Lena Art Foundation, artist in residence and Creative Contributor 2023

Selected as Guest Artist for Artist Access to Colleges at New Buckinghamshire University, 2022

Imago Mundi - Recipient of Summer of Culture Grant, LBH 2022

Ashurst Art Prize, shortlisted 2021

Fountain of Hygiene, design shortlisted for *Hygiene Innovation Beyond the Sanitiser*, Bompas & Parr and The Design Museum 2020

The Aidan Threlfall Award, The Goldsmiths' Company, runner up, London 2011

First Prize, Outstanding Work in Show, City and Guilds of London Art School, 2009

Curation

Mantra at Stour Space, Hackney Wick, London 10/11/18

Substance Rift at House of Vans, Waterloo, London 03-22/06/16

Freed From Desire at Gallery 223, Waterloo, London 20-25/10/15