

ANNA ROCKE

Arusha Gallery | info@arushagallery.com | 0131 557 1412

BIOGRAPHY

Anna's work acts as a safe and free space to explore the awkward and fragile interaction between familiar and unfamiliar spaces. Painting from memory, she naturally condenses images from first and second hand experiences using incessant patterns, providing a liminal space, in which these realities or fantasies can exist in their distorted, fragmented and transitory form. Uncanny figures and objects are held between areas of pattern, so reality is reordered, and space loses its logic. Shapes and figures have a slight distortion, which serves to reflect the warping of memory. Little clues to their place in time are left, ambiguous narratives evolve to appear unrecognisable, disorientating the viewer and creating a timeless betwixt space. Rocke builds diminutive, narrative-rich scenes in heavy impasto. The paintings swell with varied textures, depicting intimate paused moments of domesticity. The viewer becomes voyeur as time unfurls in front of them; cooked eggs sit abandoned, a lover lies asleep, a coat awaits collection.

The work echoes the writings of Simon Armitage, Kwint, Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper* and Rocke's own chronic illness; the transforming, disorienting feeling of a trusted body becoming alien, symptoms unpredictable. Held captive by her illness for weeks, her disorientation bleeds through. Recognisable objects are presented through a distorted lens - in a sort of off-kilter familiarity. Colours over-saturate, shadows ooze and loom, texture swirls into a fuzzy haze as the world spins around you.

EDUCATION

2019

Edinburgh College of Art Painting BA (Hons) 2015-2019

EXHIBITIONS

2023

The door that creaks, solo exhibition, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh

A closed door, a den, Arusha Gallery, Bruton

Portal, Arusha Gallery, London

Inaugural Salon Group Exhibition, Salon 21, New York

Hawthorn and the Feast of Julian, Arusha Gallery, New York

The Bed in the Corner, solo exhibition, Arusha Gallery, Bruton

2022

Cruel Intentions, group exhibition, Arusha Gallery, London

2021

Safe as Milk, group exhibition, co-curated by Anna Choutova and Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh and later London

2020

London Art Fair, Arusha Gallery

2019

By Night, solo exhibition, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh

Edinburgh College of Art Degree Show

2019

Visual Arts Scotland Shortlist

AWARDS

2023

Arusha Gallery Spring Residence, Bruton, Somerset

RESIDENCIES

2021

DOOResidency, DOOR Creative Studio, Zandaam