

Press release for immediate use

Arusha Gallery presents *Midnight Candy* by Fiona Finnegan

31st October – 21st November 2020

Press preview – Friday 30th October

13a Dundas Street, Edinburgh



Fiona Finnegan, *Tupelo*.

IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

Arusha Gallery is pleased to present ***Midnight Candy* by Fiona Finnegan** from 31st October – 21st November 2020 in what will be the first solo show by the artist in Scotland.

Having initially studied Music and Visual Practice at Brighton University, it's perhaps unsurprising that much of Finnegan's work is musically inspired. This inspiration is evident in *Midnight Candy* which is comprised of many works titled with excerpts of song lyrics such as, '*Tupelo*' and '*But the Sun is Eclipsed by the Moon*'. Although the works do not aim to directly represent these lyrics, they draw from them a certain mood and sensibility - capturing the artist's distinctive creative style, fusing dark gothic mysticism with a radical rock 'n' roll punch. The title of the show itself, *Midnight Candy* – a flower which only blooms in the moonlight, releasing a sweet intoxicating scent which intensifies with the darkness, wonderfully evokes Finnegan's unique artistic practice, inspired by the natural environment and never rushed.

Finnegan is a painter who allows her work to form organically, preferring not to push herself towards a deadline, meaning each collection is fully formed in advance of each exhibition which often span months or years – ultimately providing the viewer with a real sense of

cohesion and unity when looking at the work. *Midnight Candy* is no exception and in this haunting, almost mythical collection, the artist's work evokes a sense of Romanticism in relation to her approach to external landscapes, with each piece seemingly looking to these places to find meaning.

Fiona Finnegan, Midnight Candy by Iphgenia Baal

I asked him had he ever seen the faeries, and got the reply, 'Am I not annoyed with them?'

- The Celtic Twilight, W.B. Yeats

What with things being as Apple Mac/Harry Potter as they are, it comes as no surprise that magic — like feminism/homosexuality/counterculture, and other previous unfathomables— has been gentrified. To conform magic with consumer values required a tidying, a softening re-appropriation.

This was primarily achieved through a co-opting of magical vocabulary for bourgeois ends, e.g./i.e. to sell cars/ mortgages/art/coffee... Sprite is lemonade, Elf a petrol station, Nike no longer the winged goddess of victory! Versace has graphic-designed Medusa beyond recognition, as have Starfucks the double-tailed mermaid.

Call me paranoid, but I'm gonna go with this blitzkrieg being a deliberate attempt on the part of our arch-overlords (you know who you are!) to make it harder, but at once more important than ever, for folk to occupy a position of radical fantasy.

Harder but not impossible... for myriad occurrences — the dawn chorus, a supermoon, twilight, for example — prompt revellers to pause in their stumble, holiday-makers to miss folk back home and newborns to bristle with excitement. Us few wild children, alert and cautious, hip to how urgent and how tangible the occasion is.

Fiona Finnegan is a painter. She lives and works in Belfast.

Iphgenia Baal is away with the faeries.

Fiona Finnegan said: “My work is interested in natural phenomena and the human experience of it both real and imagined, and in particular at the interface between the cosmos and mythology.”

Agnieszka Prendota, Creative Director at Arusha Gallery said: “We present *Midnight Candy* a solo show by Fiona Finnegan and I am so thrilled to see this group of hauntingly beautiful works shown in the midst of Scottish autumn. Their romantic outreach and contemplative atmosphere have the power to recenter, as well as inspire a longing - nudging the viewer towards a search for meaning and delight in their physical form. The exhibition marks an important milestone in our journey with the artist working in close collaboration with Domobaal in London to realise this wonderful show.”

ENDS/

For further information including review, interview and images requests please contact Kate Bouchier-Hayes on 078 25335489 / kate@thecornershoppr.com or Sarah Drummond on 077 316934

IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

Exhibition Dates: 31st October – 21st November 2020

Arusha Gallery Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 1pm to 5pm.

** Arusha Gallery has measures in place to ensure social distancing is maintained to ensure our visitors and staff are protected and a high level of hygiene is maintained.**

Midnight Candy is also presented online from 31st October via www.arushagallery.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/arushagallery

NOTES TO EDITORS

Fiona Finnegan

Fiona Finnegan (*1979) is a painter who graduated with an MFA distinction from Ulster University in 2009 and is currently living and working in Belfast. This exhibition will present thirteen small scale, intricately worked paintings made in the last three years. She received a BA Hons in Music and Visual Practice in 2001 at the University of Brighton. Recent exhibitions include solo shows at the University of Ulster, Belfast (2017) and Domobaal Gallery, London (2018). Group shows include Penumbra at F.E Mc William Gallery, Banbridge (2020) and Waking The Witch, a touring exhibition supported by Arts Council England (2018/2019). She was selected for the Creekside Open, at A.P.T Gallery London, selected by Jordan Baseman (2017), the Creekside Open, selected by Alison Wilding (2017) and the Threadneedle Prize Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London (2010). Her paintings are included in the public collections of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the University of Ulster, Belfast.

Arusha Gallery

Arusha Gallery is a contemporary art gallery with its main premises in Edinburgh's historic New Town. Opening in 2013, Arusha runs an annual programme of exhibitions, events and fairs, both nationally and internationally, with regular collaborations with guest artists, curators, festivals and institutions.