

ILONA SZALAY

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

BIOGRAPHY | Born in Beirut in 1975, Ilona Szalay completed an English Literature degree at the University of Oxford in 1997, before undertaking further studies at Central St Martins (Byam Shaw School of Art) from which she graduated in 2002 with an MFA. She's the recipient of the ORA Contemporary Art Prize (Italy), a finalist for the prestigious Threadneedle Prize (UK), and with an exhibition history that includes the Royal Academy, the British Painter's Association and the Barbican; her work has been extensively exhibited in cities including Milan, Rome, Zurich, Toronto and New York.

Through a range of media from canvas to tracing paper, LED light to glass, Szalay engages the multitudinous dichotomies that make up both collective and individual subjective experience in restrained, poetic visual language. It is in liminal space – that between sites of dominance and submission, or power and vulnerability – that the figures in her work encounter one another.

The contrast between the subject she paints and how it is painted is never sharp or demanding; the heavy, looping strokes and soft lines made by her brush point towards something much more ingenious and intuitive. These are contrasts that are gestured at, never insisted upon, and allow for a kind of dialectic with the viewer: a set of techniques more native to the literary arts than to the visual medium in which she works.

EDUCATION | **2001-2002**
Byam Shaw School of Art, University of the Arts, *MA Fine Art with Distinction MA thesis*

1999-2000
Byam Shaw School of Art, University of the Arts, *Post Graduate Diploma*

1998-1999
Central St Martin's College of Art and Design, *Foundation Diploma*

1994-1997
Brasenose College, Oxford University, *BA English Literature, 2.1*

SOLO EXHIBITIONS | **2015**
London Art Fair, Islington, London

2014
Mermaid, Solo exhibition, Tart Gallery, Zurich
Terra Incognita, the Project Gallery, Arundel
Undercurrents, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh
Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London
AAF New York City, Metropolitan Pavilion
UP&COMING, Exhibition organised by Kids of Dada, Hoxton Gallery, London AAF Milan, Superstudio Piu
Art 14 London, Olympia, London

2013
Silver, Group exhibition, Rebecca Hossack Gallery
Art Toronto, Metro Toronto Convention Centre
The Threadneedle Prize, the Mall Galleries
The 20/21 British Art Fair, Royal College of Art
ArtWorks Open 2013, Barbican Arts Group Trust

Owl, Boy, Gun, Solo exhibition, Rebecca Hossack Gallery
Octopus, Solo exhibition, Galleria Marelia, Bergamo

2012

Sand in the Wax, auction at the Barbican Arts Trust
The National Open Art Competition, The Prince's Foundation, Hoxton
The Threadneedle Prize, the Mall Galleries, London
The Other Art Fair, Ambika P3, London
FAD Exhibition at Boxpark, Shoreditch

2011

The Other Art Fair, the Bargehouse, London
The London Group Open Exhibition 2011, The Cello Factory
No New Thing Under The Sun, Royal Academy, London

2010

Group show gallery artists , Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London Open Art Fair, Utrecht, Holland
Naked (solo show), Whitfield Fine Art, London
Paint, The Beldam Gallery, London
London Art Fair, Rebecca Hossack Gallery

2009

Group Show of gallery artists, Rebecca Hossack Gallery *Collectible*, Bargate Monument Gallery, Southampton
Art London, Rebecca Hossack Gallery
Image Surface Event, Standpoint Gallery, London *Giddee Up*, The Arts Gallery, London
London Art Fair, Cynthia Corbett Gallery, London

2008

Awopbopaloobop, Transition Gallery, London
They Paved Paradise, Beverley Knowles Fine Art, London
Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London
Solo Project Space, London Art Fair (with Beverley Knowles Fine Art)

AWARDS

2014

Anthology, Charlie Smith, *long list*

2013

The Threadneedle Prize, *finalist*
ORA Prize, Italy, *winner*

2012

2rd Annual Call, Beers Lambert, *long list*

2011

I am solitary, Beers Lambert, *long list*

2006

Celeste Painting Prize, *short list*

PRESS

Metro
Wall Street International Magazine
The Independent
The Times
Dazed and Confused

Turps Banana
Garageland
The Resident
The Grove