

# 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 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

**2018**  
St Margaret's House, Edinburgh

**2015**  
Stourhead Summer Exhibition, First-View Gallery, Stourton

## AWARDS

**2019**  
Visual Arts Scotland Shortlist

## RESIDENCIES

**2023**  
Arusha Gallery Spring Residence, Bruton, Somerset

**2021**  
DOOResidency, DOOR Creative Studio, Zandaam