

# 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*

**EXHIBITIONS** **2020**  
*Some are Born to Sweet Delight, Some are Born to Endless Night*, solo show, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh  
London Art Fair, with Arusha Gallery, Islington, London

**2019**  
*Oracle*, solo show, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh  
Pulse Art Fair, with Arusha Gallery, Miami

**2018**  
*Otto/Accessorize With a Tiger/From The Heart*, group show, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh  
*L.A. Summer: The Lights Are Much Brighter*, group show, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh  
Volta14, Elsasserstrasse, Switzerland

**2017**  
*The Armorerist*, group show, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh

**2016**  
*Milk, Smoke and Bones*, solo show, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh

**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**

*Awopbopalooobop*, 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  
The Unit