

Jonathan Cooper

Press Release

FIONA STRICKLAND

The Vital Moment

20th October - 12th November 2016



Estella Rijnveld (Tulipa 'Estella Rijnveld'), watercolour on Fabriano Artistico HP 640gsm,
63.5 x 52.7cm, by Fiona Strickland

In October 2016 Jonathan Cooper will be holding the gallery's first solo show with leading botanical artist [Fiona Strickland](#).

Painting in watercolour on both Fabriano Artistico paper and Kelmscott vellum, Strickland seeks to engage and surprise viewers, often depicting flowers from an unusual viewpoint or at turning points in their life cycle, and her striking and dramatic works challenge perceptions of botanic art. Although botanically accurate, her paintings move beyond pure scientific representation, and are inspired by an emotive and artistic response, making each work a portrait that vividly captures the spirit of her subject. Including over twenty new paintings, *Fiona Strickland: The Vital Moment* will offer visitors a unique and unmissable insight into a remarkable contemporary artist.

Strickland trained at the Edinburgh College of Art under [Dame Elizabeth Blackadder](#), who instilled in her a dedication to composition and mastery of negative space that continues to inform her practise. Of equal influence in Strickland's work is her passion for and fascination with the Golden Age of Dutch art, and a major inspiration for this exhibition is the seventeenth-century [Tulip Book](#) of [Jacob Marrel](#), which she recently studied at the Rijksmuseum. Indeed, the tulip in its myriad of forms will be a key focus of the show, which will include many varieties grown by Strickland in her garden in Scotland, such as the English Florists' Tulips beloved of fellow artist [Rory McEwen](#), whose paintings Strickland first encountered while a student in Edinburgh.



Rococo (Tulipa 'Rococo'), watercolour on Fabriano Artistico HP 640gsm
64.8 x 52.7cm, by Fiona Strickland

Work from the exhibition will also be included in the publication *Plant: The Art of Botany*, which will be published by Phaidon Press in September 2016.

Notes to Editors

Fiona Strickland – (Born in 1956, in Edinburgh) is a Graduate and Post Graduate of Edinburgh College of Art. She is a multi award winner and R.H.S. Gold Medallist, recipient of the Dawn Jolliffe Botanical Art Bursary (awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society), and the [American Society of Botanical Artists and the Horticultural Society of New York's 'Best in Show', 2015](#). A member of the

American Society of Botanical Artists, she tutors botanical art internationally, and in October 2016 will be teaching at the ASBA's 22nd Annual Conference, held in conjunction with the [Hunt Institute's International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration](#) in Pittsburgh. Her paintings are held in the R.H.S Lindley Library, the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, the collection of Dr Shirley Sherwood OBE, and numerous private collections in the UK, Europe and the USA.



Parrot Tulip, Rococo (Tulipa 'Rococo'), watercolour on Fabriano Artistico HP 640gsm, 68.6 x 53.3cm,
by Fiona Strickland

Jonathan Cooper - founded in 1988 - is a London based contemporary art gallery specialising in representational drawing, painting, photography and sculpture. The gallery is a member of SLAD (The Society of London Art Dealers), BADA (The British Antique Dealers Association) and LAPADA (The Association of Art & Antique Dealers), and regularly exhibits at international art fairs.

Press Information

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