

Press release

**Grove Square Galleries announces**  
***The Colour of Abstraction: New Ways of Seeing***  
**10 December 2020 - 22 January 2021**



*Primordial Instinct* (2020), acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100cm © Mark Standing

Grove Square Galleries is delighted to announce *The Colour of Abstraction: New Ways of Seeing*, the forthcoming group exhibition featuring work from across their exciting artist roster. The exhibition will showcase bold new paintings and mixed media works, several created especially for this exhibition, by five international young artists: Orlanda Broom, Crystal Fischetti, Elena Gual, Harry Rüdham and Marc Standing.

At a time when we are facing unprecedented challenges, emotionally, socially or economically, *The Colour of Abstraction: New Ways of Seeing* is a joyful celebration of colour and abstraction in what has become an uncertain and confined world. Exploring the artists' diverse aesthetics and thematic concerns, the exhibition is unified in its curation of bright, dynamic, powerfully gestural work, championing a buoyant freedom across the canvas.

Orlanda Broom's practice is connected by strong sense of colour, reference to organic forms and exploration of the flow and manipulation of the medium, effecting a distinctive immediacy and freshness in the final paintings. And Crystal Fischetti's work, a healing practice that transverses the physical realm with the non-physical one, is rooted in movement, rituals, and shamanism, working with energy, light, and dance to create uplift and awaken through gesture and colour.

In Marc Standing's work, through his life journey from Harare, Zimbabwe, through Cape Town, Australia and Hong Kong to London, his experiences have honed his art into the vibrant, inventive and haunting work we see here. Harry Rüdham's brightly textured canvases fuse the classical motif of the reclining figure with a strikingly abstract approach, inspired by the colour studies of Bauhaus theories and transposed into a contemporary context. Elena Gual's abstracted paintings shift our perception of the figurative by using her unique style to create portraits that are both stunning to observe and empowering in equal measure.



*Duopod* (2019), resin on canvas, 120 x 150cm © Orlanda Broom

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Notes to Editors:

**Dates:** 10 December 2020 – 22 January 2021

**Location:** Grove Square Galleries, 156 New Cavendish Street, London W1W 6YW

**Opening hours:** Monday – Saturday 10am – 6pm

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About Orlanda Broom

Orlanda Broom graduated with an MA Fine Art from Winchester School of Art (Barcelona) in 1997. After returning to UK from living abroad 10 years ago, she started working full-time from her London studio. She moved from London and is now based in Hampshire.

Broom's main painting practice takes two distinct forms: lush, exotic landscapes and abstract pieces. Connecting these bodies of work is a strong sense of colour, references to organic forms and the exploration of the mediums she works with.

The abstract paintings are created through a process that involves no intervention with tools or brushes, just the flow and manipulation of the medium on the canvas. There is an immediacy and freshness borne out of this way of working which is complementary to the layered aspect of her landscape paintings.

Broom's landscapes represent re-imagined places which are celebratory, and in some senses, a rose-tinted view of the natural world. The surface joyousness is tempered by an uneasy sense of abandonment. Broom depicts wild places that are uninhabited and timeless, offering a glimpse of paradise that would ultimately ensnare and/or is potentially lost to us.

Large-scale commissions have included a 4x4m centrepiece for the lobby of the new Four Seasons in Downtown New York and a large abstract for the Mandarin Oriental in London.

About Crystal Fischetti

Crystal Fischetti (b. 1984) is best known for abstract works which are a fusion of vibrant colours and gestural movements. Influenced by the distinct styles and techniques of Abstract Expressionism, Fischetti draws on her South American and Italian heritage to create visually striking paintings, murals, installations and works on paper. Using a soak-staining method to apply paint to unprimed canvas, paper or linen laid out upon the floor, the resulting works resonate with the movement, energy and spontaneity used to create them; becoming life affirming records of her gestures.

Fischetti's artistic direction and choice of colour is additionally guided by her chromesthesia - or sound-to-colour synesthesia in which sound involuntarily evokes an experience of colour shape, and movement.

After attaining her BA in Fine Art and Art History from Leeds University Fischetti completed an MA Fine Art at the Chelsea College of Arts, London. Her work can be found in the collections of MONA, New York, the San Diego Institute, San Diego, and Yue Hu Museum, Shanghai. In recognition of her achievements, Fischetti has been awarded multiple grants, awards and



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commissions; these include a project for British Airways First Magazine and the coveted Visa for 'Artist of Extraordinary Talent' by the U.S. Government.

### About Elena Gual

Elena Gual was born in Spain but is currently living and working in London. Quickly becoming a global star in the art world, her social media following is already in the hundreds of thousands. Her art depicts inspirational strong women encountered on her journey, using her unique style to create portraits that are both stunning to observe and empowering in equal measure.

Initially self-taught, Gual chose to move from Spain in order to follow her academic dream and pursue a classical training in Fine Art, graduating in 2016 from the 'Florence Academy of Art' in Tuscany after completing a three-year degree concentrating on the deep study of classical drawing and painting.

Gual continued her education at the Saint Martins School of Arts, as well as at the Royal Academy in London.

### About Harry Rüdham

London-based artist Harry Rüdham (b. 1996) graduated with a First in BA Fine Art in 2019 from Central Saint Martins, where his studies also included a year at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. His distinctive style fuses the classical motif of the reclining figure with a strikingly abstract approach.

Inspired by the colour studies of Bauhaus artists, Rüdham transposes their theories into a contemporary context. Floating, reclining or falling figures are silhouetted and often repeated across brightly textured canvases.

Rüdham's work has featured in numerous group exhibitions in the UK and Germany including the Venco Gallery Edition iii Exhibition, Berlin (2018) and Young Contemporaries, London (2019) which he also curated. In 2020 Rüdham was the subject of a solo online exhibition with Julia Campbell Carter and he initiated the residency, 'Sit Down, Have a Corona' in order to support artists during the global pandemic.

### About Marc Standing

Marc Standing has taken part in exhibitions internationally, both as a solo artist and as part of a group, significantly in New York, London, The Netherlands, Hong Kong and South Africa. His work has been shown extensively throughout Australia, with a selection of his works having been acquired by Artbank, Australia. Standing has also been included in prominent Australian art prizes; as well as being a finalist in various other international art prizes over the years, including the Sovereign Asian Art Prize. Marc Standing's work can be found in numerous public and private collections worldwide including commissioned works for The Groucho Club, London, and the Cathay Pacific Lounge, Hong Kong.

Marc Standing's sublime and iconic paintings have developed through his complex emotional and life experiences, with his work embodying his personal search for identity as well as the complexities felt by mass consciousness. Organic and anthropological in feel, Standing's work is thematically inspired by the natural world, science and biology. References to microcosms, cell structures, and earthly composites abound and present the viewer with a fresh new perspective.

His work can be categorised as eerie yet peaceful, made up of the layering of textures and imagery designed to evoke a surreal clarity in the viewer. Marc Standing uses a palette and compositional platform mixed with sinister imagery in order to explore the tensions felt between light and dark; comfort and discomfort; a sense of belonging and a sense of void.