

PRESS RELEASE

THE FOREVER NOW

67 YORK STREET GALLERY W1H 1QB
6 -11 NOV 2023

SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN CHARITIES

Featuring thirty-eight works by British and Ukrainian artists, *'The Forever Now'* aims to inspire reflections on the theme of memory. Presenting a dialogue between some of the most exciting emerging British and Ukrainian artists, *'The Forever Now'* highlights the cultural thread, bond, and discourse between two countries through the confluence of personal and collective memory. As these artists demonstrate, all memories can be manifested in art, whether captured in the moment or recollected through time.

'Landscape is the work of the mind. Its scenery is built up as much from strata of memory as from layers of rock.' - Ansel Adams. In the show, we see how a number of artists use landscape as a means to explore a spectrum of memory, encompassing myths, cultural histories and personal narratives. William Fice imaginatively captures the spirit of a moment in the English countryside in a newly commissioned piece *'Hikers'* (2023); Rebecca Sammon renders human forms within imagined landscapes, moving from suggestions of mythical narrative into a more ambiguous space. Gavin Shepherdson and Jaroslav Leonets draw inspiration from the urban landscape and the people that inhabit it while Georgia Beaumont captures the spirit of nature, its symbolism, and its cyclical constancy: *"My forms and colours are distilled, altered and dreamed up versions of visual cues that I like to collect whilst walking outdoors"*. The limitless memories within domestic landscapes are also explored and reflected in the work of Oleksandra Marston and Bobby Fermie.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has created a wave of trauma that is now embedded in the collective memory of all Ukrainians. This shared experience has inspired artists to create new works dedicated to their homeland. In Polina Shcherbyna's *'War Notes'* series (2022), she conveys the visceral acts of inhumanity that were wrought by the brutal and destructive forces of war. Nataliia Verbova and Margo Sarkisova reflect their emotional responses to the war through the medium of print. Anna Kostritskaya describes her work titled *'Temet Nosce'* (2021): *'I began work on this painting a month before the war started. It reminds me of that feeling that is hard to forget: emptiness, an unusually quiet city, and the lost eyes of those who stayed'*. Collectively, these artists have engaged with broader themes of cultural memory, imagining new possibilities for healing and resilience in the face of war.

Memory, time and the intersection of space is explored in the work of Olga Karika, Bohdan Svyrydov and Maksym Mazur. Karika's *'Medieval Hunters'* (2023) is symbolic of her childhood dreams as well as her aspirations for the future. Bohdan Svyrydov is interested in the transience of time: *'My works are about transit states, about the unknown and mysterious future.'* Artists Ben Walker, Lucia Jones and Florence Reekie explore the theme of memory through the constructs of paint, film and fashion. Ideas of nostalgia inspire Selby Hurst's hand-moulded ceramics: *'There is a deep sense of sentimentality embedded throughout my practice, often pieces start from writing based on my own life and past.'* Lindsey Jean McLean also draws on lived experiences and her imagination in *'Cold Boa'* (2020) and *'Feathers and Fishnets'* (2022).

The concept of memory is inherent in all the exhibited works in 'The Forever Now'. Adopting their own artistic methods and interpretations, Ukrainian and British artists have presented dynamic approaches and insights on the various themes of memory acquired by individuals, communities, and societies.

We are delighted to support two Ukrainian charities for this group show. Helping To Leave (www.helpingtoleave.org) is a non-profit organisation helping Ukrainians evacuate from occupied areas in Ukraine. Their mission is to keep Ukrainians safe and meet their immediate needs. Artists Support Ukraine (www.artistssupportukraine.today) is a foundation supporting Ukrainian artists, art managers and creatives who are working in the temporary occupied territories.

EXHIBITING ARTISTS




Georgia Beaumont
Bobbie Fermie
William Fice
Selby Hurst Inglefield
Lindsey Jean McClean
Lucia Jones
Orla Kane
Olga Karika
Emily Kirby
Anna Kostritskaya

Jaroslav Leonets
Oleksandra Martson
Maksym Mazur
Florence Reekie
Rebecca Sammon
Margo Sarkisova
Polina Shcherbyna
Gavin Shepherdson
Bohdan Svyrydov
Nataliia Verbova
Ben Walker



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