

PRESENZA

Presents

hey woman!

at sketch

9 conduit street, London w1s 2xg

22 June – 4 September 2018

Opening in June to coincide with the City of London's *Women: Work and Power season*, Presenza is unveiling its fifth show, *hey woman!*, an exhibition spotlighting emerging artistic talents in film, painting and installation. The show presents selected works by artists Eliza Douglas and artist duos Harriet Fleuriot & Sarah Cockings and Hannah Quinlan & Rosie Hastings. In juxtaposition a selection of works by Dianne Harris, Lauren Baker and Liliane Lijn will be presented by Kinetica.

hey woman! intentionally blurs the lines between gender, sexuality, social environment, power and abstraction. Exploring the work of these five exciting female artists and their collaborations it emerges that today's preoccupation with gender goes far beyond mere feminist empowerment and assertion.

Eliza Douglas (1984, New York) lives and works in both Berlin and New York. Aside from painting, now expressed to be "the focus of my life", Eliza has also been known to record music, model for major brands such as Balenciaga and Vetements, and notably collaborated with her partner, Anne Imhof, on *Faust*, winning the Golden Lion Award at the 2017 Venice Biennale. As part of *hey woman!* Presenza will showcase one large-scale oil painting, titled *I am Lost Forever, Floating*. Avoiding categorization Douglas' work over the years has stemmed from her early preoccupations with girls and death. In these powerful pieces she references the body, illustrating disembodied hands and feet in refined detail while allowing the extensions to run wild and seemingly dance around the absent body, exploring the otherwise empty canvas. The dualities of both meticulous realism and painterly abstraction, and control and lawless freedom, unequivocally absorb the viewer. Coinciding with this exhibition Eliza has her work on show at New York's Jewish Museum, running until 21 October, 2018.

Multi-award winning *Plasma Vista* (2016) was created as a collaboration between British film and performance artists Harriet Fleuriot (1983, Bristol) and Sarah Cockings (1982, London). First masterminded in 2014 as a promotional video, the idea for *Plasma Vista* was morphed over a two-year period from an advertising product to an expressive vehicle for artistic collaboration. Over this time Harriet and Sarah worked together to develop a narrative for a surreal and visually provocative experimental film, exploring the physicality of the body and anthropomorphising of objects, while blurring the lines between gender and sexuality. Amplified by distorted sounds, each scene is meticulously choreographed around the different design objects and the film's striking protagonist, Miss Cairo, ultimately creating dramatic optical illusions and a dark fetishized undertone. The experimental film was selected for Bloomberg New Contemporaries

2017, and has won multiple awards including the Tenderflix Prize in 2016 and most recently Best Experimental Short at ÉCU film festival, as well as nominations at NuitsUnderwire Film Festival 2017 and London Short Film Festival 2017. To coincide with the exhibition 'Plasma Vista' will be available online for the first time.

Complementing these works Presenza will showcase a large light box by artist duo and couple Hannah Quinlan (1991, Newcastle) and Rosie Hasting (1991, London). Hannah and Rosie met while studying Fine Art at Goldsmiths College and began formally working together following their graduation in 2014. Known for their ongoing @Gaybar events series the light box works, from the 2016 series *DINK (Dual income no kids)*, were originally conceived as part of a three-week @Gaybar residency at DRAF Studios in 2016. Created using overlaid CGI, the works have evolved from the artists' research into the history of New York's legendary Fire Island. Since the early twentieth century the island was a retreat for New York's diverse gay community, however following a history of police brutality, the AID's crisis backlash and subsequent gentrification, the island has experienced rapid change, more recently marked by the devastation of hurricane Sandy in 2012. By illustrating the desolate beaches and detailing neglected and damaged objects in the foreground, including: original newspaper clippings, protest signs, empty beer bottles and more, the artists have created an eerie presence and contemplation into the island's complex historic identity.

About Presenza

Presenza brings contemporary art to unique public and commercial locations, allowing you to explore and collect emerging art in the heart of the city.

Through our service of curated exhibitions we aim to facilitate the discovery and exposure of exciting contemporary art whilst presenting it in selective hotspots, engaging a broader national and international audience. Selected locations vary from high-end hotels, restaurants, offices, private members clubs, concept stores and luxury retail shops.

www.presenza.co.uk

About sketch

sketch is a complex and unique site; a destination for food, art and music. sketch opened to the public in December 2002, spread out over two expansive floors of a converted 18th century building on Conduit Street in Mayfair. Conceived by French master chef Pierre Gagnaire and restaurateur Mourad Mazouz, it has attracted unprecedented media attention for its myriad food, drink and entertainment styles since its opening. www.sketch.london