

THE BAKERY

PRESS RELEASE

FIGHT OR FLIGHT?

Private View:

Saturday 19 September 2020, 12 - 8 PM

Exhibition:

Sunday 20 September - Saturday 31 October 2020

Opening Hours:

Thursday - Friday, 11 AM - 6 PM

Saturday, 12 PM - 5 PM

and by appointment

The Bakery, The Columbia, 95-99 Lancaster Gate, London, W2 3NS (access via side entrance)

Roman Road in partnership with The Columbia is pleased to present *FIGHT OR FLIGHT?*, the inaugural exhibition presented in The Bakery, a newly renovated and collaborative gallery space in London. Initiated by Josh Fresco (Director of The Columbia) and Marisa Bellani (Creative Director of Roman Road), The Bakery aims to primarily showcase and promote emerging artists, bringing to its audiences an ongoing and dynamic programme of young artistic talents in the heart of West London. Marking the start of this budding partnership, *FIGHT OR FLIGHT?* is a group exhibition curated by Marisa Bellani, featuring some familiar names from Roman Road's roster, together with many new local artists.

FIGHT OR FLIGHT? presents varied and multidisciplinary works by twenty UK-based artists. The show is a reflection on the opportunities that have arisen as a result of the global pandemic. *FIGHT OR FLIGHT?* showcases and creates synergies between artists that perhaps would not have exhibited together otherwise, centring on ideas of collaboration and integration. Clashes of subject matters, mediums and styles span across the selected works and present an intended visual disparity, asserting the idea, and the possibility, of differences coexisting alongside one another.

Despite the irreversible effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, we are beginning to observe a gradual return to 'normality'. The subsequent opportunities in this moment of fluctuation have allowed us to dismiss the significance and the everyday reality of living through the pandemic. As we move out of this 'fight or flight' state, this exhibition looks to create an environment that provokes questions about our emotive responses to current events.

Emotion, albeit positive or negative, can be harboured in order to create a strong connection to our visual memories. By constructing stimulative events, both physically and psychologically, around these moments we are able to establish visual memories in which we can remember and reflect. Moving forward out of the recent state of uncertainty, the participating artists in *FIGHT OR FLIGHT?* each present new forms of artistic practice and collaboration, inviting viewers to reflect on the current changes and the possibility of coexistence.

FIGHT OR FLIGHT? opens on Saturday 19 September and will be on display until 31 October 2020.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Adam Waymouth, Alexander James, Alix Marie, Anna Skladmann, Caroline Popham, Cecilia Di Paolo, Christabel MacGreevy, Daisy Dodd-Noble, Dennis Buck, Diane Chappalley, Guy Haddon Grant, India Nielsen, Jan Agha, Jack Laver, Jordan Hemingway, Louis Morlet, Loulou Siem, Pedro Trindade, Sola Olulode, Yulia Iosilzon

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Yulia Iosilzon, *Cake Eater*, 2020. Oil on transparent fabric, 167 x 137 cm, unique.
Courtesy of Roman Road and The Columbia

ABOUT THE COLUMBIA

The Columbia is a proudly independent, family-owned hotel, overlooking Kensington Gardens. A hotel, cultural house and event space in the heart of West London, The Columbia is set across five Victorian townhouses built in 1856 and has a rich and colourful history, with many well-known music icons passing through its doors in the 80s to early 2000s. The Columbia continues to be a home for creatives and supports, promotes and invests in art and new talent through its ongoing residency programme and dedicated exhibition spaces, creating an inclusive and diverse arts community in a non-traditional space.

ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road, founded by Marisa Bellani in 2013, grew organically from a project space to a gallery through establishing itself as a space of reference for contemporary art and photography. Since the end of 2019, Roman Road has become a platform for collaborative exhibitions and has recently redefined itself with a more fluid and cooperative approach. After closing its doors to the public in spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Roman Road has taken this time to reform and realise a marked shift in its activities. The context of 2020 has accelerated the director's decision to close the physical premise and to make Roman Road a gallery without walls. Roman Road has opened its network of artists and clients to collaborations and its expertise and experience to implementing an arts programme in new and diverse structures.

For all press and general enquiries, please contact: thebakery@thecolumbia.co.uk