

ROMAN ROAD

Mystical Nature

Private View: Tuesday 04 October 2022, 6 - 8 PM
Exhibition: Wednesday 05 October – Friday 21 October 2022
Opening Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 11 AM – 6 PM; Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM
and by appointment
Address: Roman Road, 50 Golborne Road, London, W10 5PR

Roman Road is thrilled to present *Mystical Nature*, a group exhibition exploring the world of plants and reflecting on the magical workings of our ecosystems, the plants' competition and struggles invisible to the naked eye, and their relationship with us. Presented in Roman Road's new gallery space in Notting Hill, the show brings together works by four exceptional artists: Bokani, Daisy Dodd-Noble, Anna Skladmann, and Georg Wilson.

Through her vibrant, abstract works Bokani addresses our interconnectivity with nature and expresses a commitment to climate justice. For this exhibition, Bokani proposes works from her series *Hold me tight* (2022) in which she combines acrylic paint and clay on canvas to reveal messages of love and connectedness imprinted on multicoloured, swirling, flower-like forms. Words, the remnants of human interaction, collide with the natural world. The dynamic patterns lead the eye across the work, reminiscent of the visual effects of African printed cloths of Bokani's childhood. Working digitally is also central to her practice as she takes her influence from machine learning and artificial intelligence to create immersive pieces, reminding the viewer of the mesmerising and energetic presence of the natural world.

Similarly, Anna Skladmann's works also make use of digital technology, suggesting a new way of looking at nature. The images are produced using a high-definition digital scanner combined with milk or water to present a unique, close-up view of plant life. They reveal careful differences in colour, form and texture, presenting natural forms in a detailed way that is unusual for the human eye. The plants are at once real, organic and posed, arranged by the artist's hand. In compositions with no landscape or soil, they appear removed to a different realm, floating ephemerally, with certain plants evoking cultural connotations that have been popularised by literature and folklore.

The paintings of Georg Wilson display the closely-knit nature of the English countryside, the connections of its seasons and folklore creatures. The beings in her pieces exist freely in their natural settings, connected to the land and plants, and uninhibited. Her narratives are inspired by the cyclical changes of the English seasons and what they mean for the multi-layered landscape: the symbiotic relationships of plants, beings and animals that are destined to coexist in one space. By unravelling obscured knowledge, Wilson creates a delightful and unique world that draws the viewer in.

Such an ethereal world is also evoked in the imaginary landscapes of Daisy Dodd-Noble. Unusual trees of vibrant colours and varied sizes are placed within colourful vistas awash with light. The life of plants and their energetic presence is brought to light in her paintings, commanding the viewer's attention amidst the climate emergency of our day, or perhaps rather offering an escape into a dreamlike state.

Mystical Nature opens on Tuesday 04 October and will be on display at Roman Road, Notting Hill, until Friday 21 October 2022.

About the artists

Bokani

Bokani (b. 1987, Zimbabwe) is a London-based artist working across the mediums of abstract painting, sculpture, computational art and installations. She studied politics with economics at the University of Bath (2009) and then obtained a Master's in fine art at Goldsmiths College, University of London (2022), specialising in computational art. Bokani was discovered by BBC 1 for the show 'The Big Painting Challenge' and won the public vote in the first week. She has also produced multiple large-scale public art projects and has been featured in notable publications, such as The Telegraph and The Guardian. Her recent exhibitions include *Port of Call*, Changing Room Gallery, London, 2021; *BlackArtOutdoors Billboards* in London, Leeds and Bristol, 2020-2021 (touring exhibition); *Some of us are brave III*, Oxford, 2022; *The Spaces in Between*, W1 Curates, London, 2022.

Daisy Dodd-Noble

Daisy Dodd-Noble (b. 1989, United Kingdom) is a painter based in London who received her MFA at the New York Academy of Arts (2016). She completed a residency with L21 Gallery, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in 2021. Her recent group exhibitions include *Two Sisters*, Roman Road, London, 2022; *Summer Lovin'*, Stems Gallery, Ixelles, 2022; *Art in Mayfair*, Roman Road, London, 2022; and *Desire and Anxiety*, G / A R T / E N, Como, 2021. Her work has also been exhibited in solo shows, including *Origins*, L21 Factory, L'Hospitalet, Barcelona, 2022; *Grounded*, L21 Gallery, Palma de Mallorca, 2022; and *The Wood for the Trees*, Roman Road, London, 2021.

Anna Skladmann

Anna Skladmann (b. 1986, Germany) is an artist based in London who works in the medium of photography combined with scanning techniques. She received her BA from Parsons School Of Design and her MA from the Royal College of Art. Skladmann has been nominated for the Prix Pictet and Paul Huf Award, and has also won the Arles Photo Folio Prize. Her work is part of multiple permanent collections, including The Maramotti Collection and The Moscow Museum of Modern Art, to name a few. Her recent group exhibitions include *Naturalism*, Presenza, London, 2020; *Fight or Flight?*, The Columbia, London, UK 2020; *Paradise Is Not Just a Place*, Roman Road, London, 2021; and *Two Sisters*, Roman Road, London, 2022. Her most recent solo exhibitions include *YVA*, Schlueterstrasse 45, Berlin, 2019, and *In Bloom*, Artsy & Lumitrix, 2020.

Georg Wilson

Georg Wilson (b. 1998, United Kingdom) is a London-based painter and the co-founder of artist-led All Mouth Gallery. She completed her BA in art history at the University of Oxford (2020) and her MA at the Royal College of Art (2022). She is a recipient of the Elizabeth Greenshields Award (2021-22). Her work has been exhibited internationally and published in ArtMaze magazine. Her recent exhibitions include *This Other Eden*, Kravets Wehby Gallery, New York, 2022 (solo); *The Garden Thief*, Arusha Gallery, Bruton, Somerset, 2022 (solo); and *Running with the Wolves*, Liliya Gallery, London, 2022.

About Roman Road

Roman Road is a contemporary art gallery based in London and founded by Marisa Bellani. The gallery has recently redefined itself with a more fluid and ethical approach, becoming a platform for collaborative exhibitions in 2019. Since 2020, Marisa has organised art residencies in London as part of the gallery activities. Roman Road exists since 2013, following and fostering notable projects and dealing with artists all over the world. Since completing a full renovation in 2015, Roman Road has established a qualitative programme and has seen its represented artists become internationally recognised by institutions and collectors. Roman Road has established a qualitative and thematic programme and realised the creation of a research cell and Roman Road Journal in 2018, an online platform dedicated to publishing articles and exploring topics on art, science, technology, anthropology and literature.

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