

For Immediate Release

PARRHESIA

A Group Exhibition of 15 RCA MA Painting Students selected by Marisa Bellani

Anoushka Khandwala, Bissy Riva, Damien Cifelli, Daniel Roibal, Demi Danka,
Gena Milanesi, Ise Sharp, Jordan Rubio, Laura Dzelzyte, Mayi Takor,
Matilde Roque, Mia Wilkinson, Molly van Amerongen, Nelson Hernandez
and Tiyana Mitchell



Detail of Laura DZELZYTE, *The Paradox of Choice*, 2025. Oil on linen, 76 x 60 cm. Unique

Wednesday 28 May - 30 May 2025
PV: Tuesday 27 May, 5:00 to 8:00 PM
Hockney Gallery, South Kensington, London SW7 2EP

Parrhesia is a group exhibition showcasing works by current MA Painting students, selected by Marisa Bellani, founder of Roman Road. With the support of the Royal College of Art's Painting Department and Roman Road, the exhibition will be held at the Hockney Gallery from 27 to 30 May 2025.

Parrhesia, a term rooted in classical rhetoric meaning “to speak freely”, brings together 15 emerging voices who reflect the radical openness and diverse perspectives shaping the future of contemporary painting.

Participating artists include: Anoushka Khandwala, Bissy Riva, Damien Cifelli, Daniel Roibal, Demi Danko, Gena Milanese, Ise Sharp, Jordan Rubio, Laura Dzelzyte, Mayi Takor, Matilde Roque, Mia Wilkinson, Molly van Amerongen, Nelson Hernandez and Tiyana Mitchell.

The exhibition explores how artists defend multiculturalism and carve space for themselves within an increasingly narrow global discourse shaped by algorithmic systems and dominant narratives.

Parrhesia offers a public platform for early-career artists to present their work. In line with Roman Road's mission to support emerging talent through education, mentoring and exhibition opportunities, the show reflects a commitment to nurturing thoughtful and authentic practices beyond the studio.

Visitors are warmly invited to the opening reception on Tuesday 27 May, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Exhibiting artists will be present to discuss their work.

The evening will also mark the relaunch of the cult RCA journal ARK | PARRHESIA - publication-as-exhibition and exhibition-as-publication edited by Laura Dzelzyte, RCA in collaboration with Ryan Gander, RA. A panel discussion will take place at 6:00 PM with Marisa Bellani, Kamini Vellodi (new Head of Painting at RCA), artist Antony Micallef and Joe Kennedy (founder of Unit London and Dragons Hill Residency).

This exhibition is supported by Roman Road and the Royal College of Art.

NOTE TO EDITORS

About Roman Road

Roman Road is a platform and a catalyst for artists' career growth, building on its origins as a gallery space. Initially founded in 2015 as a traditional exhibition venue participating in art fairs, Roman Road quickly recognised the need for a more comprehensive support system to help artists navigate their careers beyond the exhibitions. This insight led to the development of a forward-looking curatorial and studio platform, designed to respond to young artists' needs in an ever-evolving art world. From 2020 to 2023, Roman Road provided free studio spaces to emerging artists alongside mentoring programmes, reaffirming its commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. Its headquarters in Bethnal Green now house a dedicated research and workshop room, ensuring resources are readily available to artists. Roman Road continues to pioneer an artist-focused approach, establishing itself as a vital resource for emerging talent in the contemporary art world.

About Marisa Bellani

Marisa Bellani is a London-based curator and advocate for artist development, committed to identifying and supporting emerging talent. Her journey began shortly after completing her MA at Sotheby's Institute of Art, when she opened her first project space in Bethnal Green, London. In 2015, she founded Roman Road, a contemporary art gallery that has since become a platform for over 50 emerging artists and photographers,. In 2024, she launched Beyond Studio, an educational initiative within Roman Road, expanding the conversation around artistic practice through a methodology that integrates neuroscience-based coaching techniques—an approach shaped by her training at the NeuroLeadership Institute (2019). Marisa's curatorial research is an ongoing dialogue—one that unfolds across exhibitions, collaborations, and encounters.

Instagram:

@romanroad_

@bissyryva @damien_cifelli @daniroibal @demi.danka @gmilanesi

@matilderoque.painting @nelsonhernandez.cl @lauradzelzyte @tiyana.m.art

@daniroibal @ise.sharp @jordanrubio10 @manyitakor.art @mia__wilkinson

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Hockney Gallery - Royal College of Art

South Kensington, London SW7 2EP

Exhibition: Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 May 2025

Private View: Tuesday 27 May 2025, 5 PM – 8 PM

Panel Discussion: Tuesday 27 May 2025, 6 PM

Opening times: by appointment only - email info@romanroad.com

PRESS INFORMATION

info@romanroad.com