

# JULIE COCKBURN

## WAITING ROOM

28 NOVEMBER - 10 JANUARY

PRIVATE VIEW - THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 6 - 8PM

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*"In a waiting room, one is, by definition, waiting, away from the hustle of everyday life. We are temporarily on hold, together but separate."* Julie Cockburn

On view at Flowers Gallery, Kingsland Road 28 November-10 January will be a new series of appropriated portrait photography, transformed by embroidered and painted embellishments to the photographic print. Julie Cockburn's exhibition of hand-altered photographs *Waiting Room* explores the social territory of everyday encounters between strangers.

Drawing parallels between the mutually quiet and contemplative spaces of the gallery and the waiting room, Julie Cockburn has turned her attention to the unspoken human interactions that occur in such places. Likening contact between strangers to an 'un-choreographed dance,' Cockburn is interested in the sense of connection invoked by such awkwardly shared space and experience. She explores the impulsive judgments we make about one another, the fantastical histories, biographies and characters projected onto unknown faces; our imaginative attempts to understand those around us.

The sense of ascribed narrative and emotional exploration created in Cockburn's work is also reflected in her process in which she 'opens a door for fantasy play' and invites the viewer to do the same. In reassembling, stitching into and over-painting studio portraits from the 1940's and 1950's, she creates an imaginative and internal response "making tangible the emotions that are invoked in me by the people or places in the found images." Geometric patterns and gestural scrawls stitched in brightly coloured thread re-work and transform the head and shoulders of the sitter. Initially composed on the computer, Cockburn conceives her carefully balanced colour combinations digitally before taking her needle to the original print. Often in striking contrast to the de-saturated vintage photographs, her vivid woven embellishment "delivers the images out of redundancy into a meaningful present". (Jonathan P Watts)

Removing each image from its original context, Cockburn opens up new possibilities of narrative interpretation about the lives of the anonymous sitter. As she describes: "It is the same process as sitting in the waiting room, making up stories about the strangers in the room." *Waiting Room* can be interpreted as a metaphor for an internalized space of contemplation. Cockburn invites us to linger and engage in playful curiosity about our everyday interactions with the unfamiliar.



*Contemplation*, 2014, Hand embroidery on found photograph

## ABOUT JULIE COCKBURN

Julie Cockburn exhibited as part of the Salon Art Prize 2010, and was the recipient of the Selectors' Prize. Her work has also been selected for the Jerwood Drawing Prize in both 2007 and 2010, and the John Moores Painting Prize 2012. She studied at Chelsea College of Art and Central St Martins College of Art and Design and has exhibited extensively in the UK, Europe and the United States, including the Arnhem Museum, Arnhem, NL and BALTIC 39, Newcastle. Her work is included in the collections of Yale Center for British Art, The Wellcome Collection, British Land, Caldic Collection, Pier 24 and Goss-Michael Foundation, as well as numerous private collections. This will be Cockburn's third exhibition at Flowers Gallery.

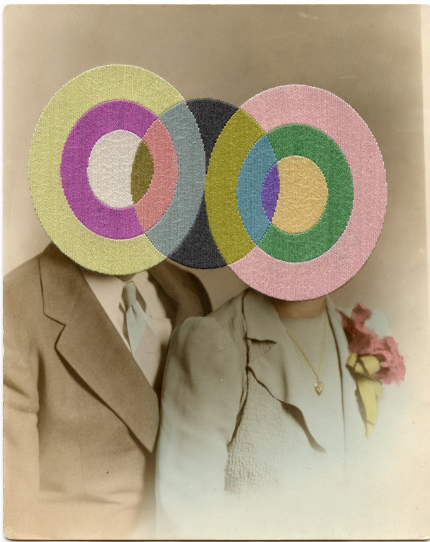
## NOTES TO EDITORS

The exhibition will take place at Flowers Gallery, 82 Kingsland Road, London, E2 8DP. Tel: +44 (0)20 7920 7777

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm or by appointment

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For further information and more images, please contact Hannah Hughes [Hannah@flowersgallery.com](mailto:Hannah@flowersgallery.com) / 020 7920 7777



*Honeymoon Period 3*, 2014, Hand embroidery on found photograph, 25.3cm x 20.2cm



*The Disagreement*, 2013, Acrylic on giclee print on Hahnemuhle German Etching, 97.5cm x 80.5cm



*Donna*, 2014, Hand embroidery on found photograph, 25.4cm x 20.3cm