

LUCY JONES

HOW DID YOU GET ON THIS CANVAS?

April 9 - May 9, 2015

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Opening Reception
Thursday April 9, 6 - 8pmnewyork@flowersgallery.com
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Flowers Gallery is delighted to announce an exhibition of self-portraits by British artist Lucy Jones, presenting a selection of work from the past twenty-five years.

Known for her frank and revealing representations of the issues surrounding identity, Jones' paintings address conventional notions of femininity, ageing and disability, through her close observation of the self.

Using herself as the model, Jones explores ideas of the 'gaze', claiming her own authority within the relationship between the viewer, artist and subject. She has said: "*I look at you. You look at me. I let you look at me. YOU PROJECT ONTO ME.*" Jones paints the props and supports in her life, including her glasses, walking sticks and her wheelie, examining their role in shaping her personal sense of self and the perceptions of others. Addressing the feminine image in works such as *Flushed*, 2006, the artist poses in fancy underwear, expressing the concealed human desire to be loved, and, in her own words, being "*allowed to love someone else.*"

Representing the unseen remains important throughout Jones' work. She considers the inner likeness to be more important than the exterior, which is sometimes referred to by the artist as a mask. In her early self-portraits, Jones reflected the conflicting sides of her personality, by splitting the canvas into two parts. There are echoes of this duality in *How Did You Get on This Canvas?*, 2013, in which the artist's own shadow presents the externalization of hidden interior emotions.

Jones sees the rectangular format of the canvas as providing the ideal framework within which to use the language of painting and drawing as an expressive force. Jones explores the relation of her body to its surroundings, often enclosing the figure within oppressive fields of color.

In works such as *This Piece of Paper Seems Too Small*, 2006, the absence of surrounding space draws the viewer closer to the image, in which Jones contorts her body to fit the frame, her shoulders wedged against its vertical borders.

She has described her work as having an "*awkward beauty*", transforming the angular and unwieldy subject through her rhythmical balance of brilliant, complementary colors and tones. Jones identifies with artists such as Matisse and Derain for their radically non-naturalistic palette, and with Émilie Charmy, for the raw and expressive handling of both her materials and the subject matter of the female image.



How did you get on this canvas?, 2013, Oil on canvas, 71 x 47 1/4 in

Through her candid approach to the subject matter, Jones has also reached beyond the personal to approach a conversation with the viewer about a universal, shared experience. As she says: *"By looking at myself I'm trying to reflect something about being human."*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lucy Jones is represented by Flowers gallery. Jones studied at Camberwell School of Art, followed by the Royal College of Art, where she won a Rome scholarship in 1982. Born in London, she now lives in Ludlow, Shropshire. Recent exhibitions include Looking Out, Looking In, Kings Place, London; Lucy Jones, The Chelsea Arts Club, London; and Looking at Self, Flowers East, London. Her work has featured in group presentations at Cartwright Hall Gallery, Bradford Museum, Bradford; Whitechapel Gallery, London; National Portrait Gallery, London; Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh; Compton Verney, Warwickshire; Usher Gallery, Lincoln; and Chelsea Art Gallery, Palo Alto, California. Following her first London solo exhibition, two of her paintings were purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Her work also features in the collections of the Arts Council, London; Clifford Chance, London; Deutsche Bank AG, London; Government Art Collection, London; and Nordstern Collection, Cologne, amongst others.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm

Image Credits: *Images courtesy of Flowers Gallery, London and New York*

For further information and images please contact Brent Beamon - brent@flowersgallery.com / +(1) 212 439 1700



Flushed, 2006, Watercolour pencil on paper, 19 3/4 x 15 in



Going Swimming, 1997, Oil on canvas, 85 3/4 x 61 3/4 in