

# RACHEL HELLER

21 Cork Street  
London W1S 3LZ

**Private View Monday 8 February, 6-8pm**  
Exhibition continues 9 - 13 February, 2016

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Flowers Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Rachel Heller.

Characterised by an energetic and assured use of line and vivid palette, Heller's inventive compositions reveal an innate and singular vision of expression. A new exhibition at the Cork Street gallery brings together explorations of the figure, alongside a selection of still life and landscape works.

Although Heller was born with Down's Syndrome, she found within her art a compelling means of self-expression from an early age. Of Heller's work, artist Maggi Hambling CBE has said: "The observation is acute and intimate, the execution raw and economic. For me, the work reveals human truth in an eye-opening way."<sup>1</sup>

The figures in the current exhibition are articulated through a careful and harmonious balance of colour and line. They resonate within the surrounding space, which is often represented as a patchwork of vivid greens, blues, yellows and pinks. In her mixed-media sculptures, human form is condensed and abstracted, invoking a sensuous experience of physical presence.

The landscape, which has preoccupied Heller since her move from London to the Oxfordshire countryside in 2008, is portrayed with a similarly expressive tonal range and variety of gestural marks, vigorously applied in pastel. Still life works on paper, produced between 2001–2016, are quietly domestic and delicate, with muted tones and hard edges softened by deliberate smudging.

As Matthew Cheeseman has said: "Spend time with Rachel's work and one learns a visceral language, full of colour and emotion, mood and sexuality. She suggests form in such a fascinating way, via stylised lines and shapes that are effortless and immediate yet also recognise the constructed and delicate nature of perception. As such, it is full of the work of other artists and yet always completely her own."<sup>2</sup>



*Sit Down Prose*, 2016, Pastel on paper, 43.5 x 59.5 cm, 17 1/8 x 23 3/8 in

1. Maggi Hambling, 2007, Quoted in *The Art of Rachel Heller* by Robert Heller, Ex. Cat. Flowers Gallery, London. Page 6.

2. Matthew Cheeseman, 2016, *Rachel Heller*, Ex. Cat. Flowers Gallery, London. Page 3.



*Wittenham Clumps*, 2016, Pastel on paper, 40 x 58 cm, 15 3/4 x 22 7/8 in



*Sleeping Woman*, 2006, Pastel and charcoal on paper, 43 x 59.5 cm, 17 x 23 1/2 in

## ABOUT RACHEL HELLER

Rachel Heller had her first solo exhibition when she was only twenty-two at John Jones Art Centre, London, which was opened by Sir Peter Blake. Rachel studied at The Prince's Drawing School in Hoxton and has attended summer schools at Slade School of Art as well as completing a foundation course and a diploma at Byam Shaw. She has exhibited in numerous group exhibitions, including *Absolut Secret*, Royal College of Art, London; *Royal Academy Summer Exhibition*, London; and *Discerning Eye Exhibition*, Mall Galleries, London. Heller was awarded the Hugh Casson Drawing Prize in 2006.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibition Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm  
For further information and images please contact Hannah Hughes  
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