

LUCY JONES

STRANGETIMES

21 Cork Street
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8 September - 8 October 2022
Private View: Wednesday 7 September, 6-8PM

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Flowers Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent work by Lucy Jones produced over the previous three years, from the beginning of the pandemic to the present day.

Ranging from unsettling new perspectives on once familiar landscapes, to the investigation of self during a continuing period of global upheaval, *Strange Times* presents an engaging personal response to living with an uncertain future.

The titles of the landscape paintings, such as *The Beginning of the Beginning* suggest a shift in Jones's outlook while working closer to home in Shropshire during lockdown. In *2 Metres Apart*, the title and corresponding position of two bushes in the landscape reflect a sense of altered spatial awareness, as measurement and distance became a shared aspect of daily life. Following the lifting of travel restrictions, Jones went



The Beginning of the Beginning, 2020,
oil on canvas, 120 x 150cm

on search of new locations to paint, for example, producing *What, Will it Rain Today?* in mid-Wales. Overcoming the challenges of physical disabilities, Jones paints on the ground, therefore seeking elusive vantage points from gaps in hedgerows, remaining close to her car by the side of the road. The connection between viewpoint and access highlights boundaries to the embodied experience of landscape, both seen and unseen. In these paintings the muted tones of distant hills and brooding skies are enlivened with flashes of luminous colour, revealing the prevailing spirit and endurance of nature.

The painting *Being 66, Being*, (winner of the 2021 Ruth Borchard Self-Portrait Prize,) is a naked self-portrait capturing the vulnerability of the human body and the defiance of the artist, who turns her gaze towards the viewer. The title of the work also refers to an earlier self-portrait *Being 50*, (2005). In *Being 66, Being* Jones once again draws attention to a personal milestone as a marker of how female bodies age and change, and the visceral effects of time. The notion of a milestone also relates to a threshold or a new beginning, and in this painting, the challenging glance and an adjacent door suggest a bold step into the unknown.

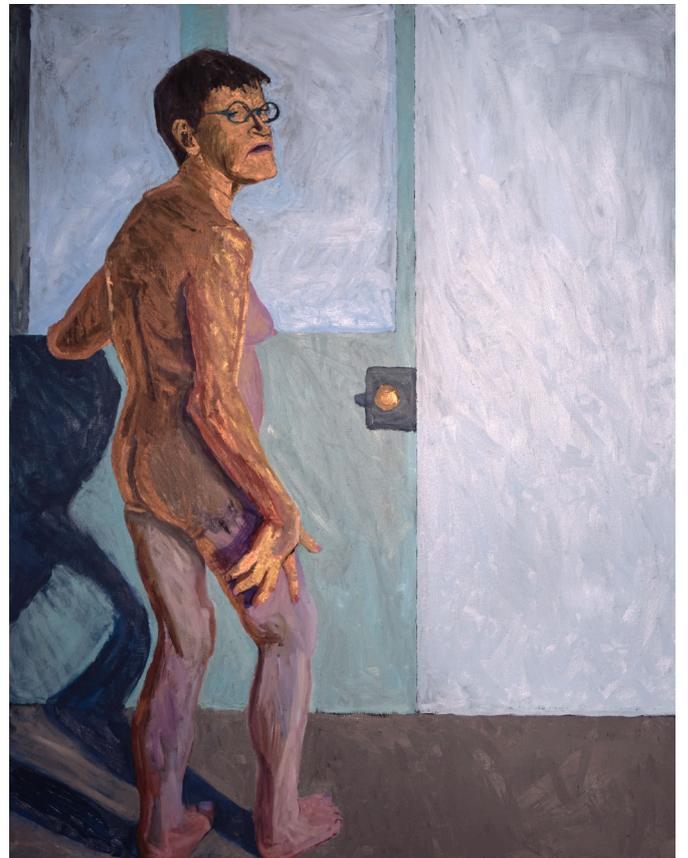
In recent years, Jones has also turned her attention to creating portraits of other people, and this exhibition includes a painting titled *Kathy* (2021), in which the vibrant palette and expressive brushstrokes coalesce with the vigorous gesture of the sitter. Writer and Art Critic Philip Vann has described Jones's portraits and self-portraits as showing "the inextricable dignity and vulnerability of other people, friends, loved ones and the artist herself - explored with a rare, expansive clarity, vibrancy and originality".

For more information and images please contact Hannah Hughes: press@flowersgallery.com



ABOUT LUCY JONES

Lucy 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. 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; with solo exhibitions including *Looking Out, Looking In*, Kings Place, London; and *Lucy Jones*, Chelsea Arts Club, London. Most recently she has exhibited at Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester, (2019), following a commission of a portrait of Grayson Perry to celebrate the Attenborough Arts Centre's patrons in 2017; and Christchurch College, Oxford, (2021). 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, among others. A recent monograph, *Lucy Jones: Awkward Beauty* was published by Elephant in 2019, with essays by Charlotte Jansen, Tom Shakespeare, and Philip Vann.



Images clockwise from top left:
Two Metres Apart, 2020, oil on canvas, 120 x 150cm;
Silver Summer Day, 2022, oil on canvas, 120 x 150 cm;
Being 66, Being, 2021, oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm

NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibition opening hours: Monday - Saturday 11am - 6pm.

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