

BIANCA RAFFAELLA

SHE CANNOT FADE

5 September – 11 October 2025

Private View: Thursday, 4 September, 6–8 pm

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Flowers Gallery is pleased to present *She Cannot Fade*, a new series of monoprints by British artist and activist Bianca Raffaella, on view from 5 September through to 11 October. Following her first major solo exhibition at the gallery earlier this year, the latest presentation will see Raffaella build on the foundational themes of memory, perception, and fragility that anchor her practice.

Executed in collaboration with master printmaker Richard Spare, these innovative works push the limits of traditional printmaking, using the underexplored medium of acrylic monoprinting. Working wet-on-wet with layers of acrylic and water, Raffaella paints directly onto reflective copper plates, primarily using her fingertips, before the surface dries, capturing fleeting impressions in quick, expressive gestures. This spontaneous, tactile process reflects her lived experience of visual impairment, translating uncertainty into a physical and creative act.

At the heart of the exhibition are portraits that emerge at varying proximities. Each print reveals different degrees of detail and distortion, mirroring the instability of visual perception and the intimacy of looking. From *Just Imagine and Be*, with its fine detailing of the facial features and subtle blue tones, to *She Cannot Fade*, rendered in soft white acrylic that appears almost ghostly. These portraits are at once personal and abstract, offering a glimpse into the artist's emotional relationship with visibility, identity, and memory. "Some of the prints are hardly there," Raffaella notes, a reminder of the elusive, shifting nature of her own reflections.

The title *She Cannot Fade* draws from *Ode on a Grecian Urn* by John Keats, published in 1820, chosen by the artist for its quiet insistence on presence and preservation. The phrase also recalls advice once given to Raffaella's mother by her early medical consultants: "see what she can see, and not what she can't see." This idea resonates throughout the show as a quietly radical approach to both disability and perception.

Each monoprint is a one-off, unrepeatable and resistant to reproduction. The works balance fragility and resilience, creating space for viewers to contemplate their own ways of seeing, knowing, and connecting. *She Cannot Fade* invites us to pause in the uncertain spaces between clarity and obscurity, offering a rare sensory encounter with the world as experienced through the artist's eyes.



Whispers of a Silver Muse, 2025
Monoprint
71 x 50 cm



Just Imagine and be, 2025
Monoprint
71 x 50 cm



Lost in a Daydream, 2025
Monoprint
71 x 50 cm



She Cannot Fade, 2025
Monoprint
71 x 50 cm

ABOUT BIANCA RAFFAELLA (b 1992)

Bianca Raffaella is a British artist and activist currently based between London and Margate. Graduating with a First-Class BA (Hons) in Fashion in 2016, Raffaella was the first registered blind student to graduate from Kingston University with a degree in the visual arts. Since completing her 2023/4 residency at the Tracey Emin Artist Residency (TEAR), Raffaella works in London, where she uses gestural fragments and impasto techniques to capture motion and visual shifts on the canvas.

In 2021, Raffaella's work was selected for the Royal Academy of Arts' Summer Exhibition, coordinated by Yinka Shonibare, followed by her solo exhibition, *Hushed Impressions*, at Orleans House Gallery in 2023. She was also awarded the NatWest Entrepreneurship Funding Prize in 2019 for her bespoke sensory fashion label. An advocate for accessibility in the arts, Raffaella has shared her insights as a speaker at the *Goethe Institut's Beyond Seeing* project and as a panellist at Tate Modern's *Please Touch the Art* talk. Most recently, she was selected by Dame Tracey Emin for Flowers Gallery's 2024 *Artist of the Day* series, presenting a one day solo exhibition as part of the programme's 25th edition. Bianca Raffaella presented her first major solo exhibition, *Faint Memories*, at Flowers Gallery in February 2025. Her work was selected for the *Royal Academy Summer Exhibition* the same year, and in July 2025 she was shortlisted for both *The Ruth Borchard Self-Portrait Prize* and *The Women in Art Prize*.

Exhibition Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm

PRESS ENQUIRIES

For more information and images please contact Leighanne Murray: leighanne@atelierpublicrelations.com or press@flowersgallery.com / +44 (0) 207 439 7766

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