

BIANCA RAFFAELLA

BETWEEN HEARTBEATS

21 CORK STREET
LONDON W1S 3LZ

20 November 2026 - 2 January 2027
Private View: Thursday 19 November, 6-8pm

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T: +44 (0)20 7439 7766
press@flowersgallery.com
www.flowersgallery.com

Flowers Gallery is pleased to announce *Between Heartbeats*, an exhibition of a new series of paintings by Bianca Raffaella, charting a deeply personal and transformative chapter in the British artist's practice. Renowned for her evocative figurative and floral works that translate the artist's perceptual experience through ethereal marks and layered surfaces, Raffaella now reflects on new motherhood, infusing it with a broader inquiry into identity and metamorphosis. The body of work is the subject of the 2026 BBC World Service *In the Studio* audio documentary, *Bianca Raffaella: A World of Blurred Vision*, produced by Sahar Zand.

Centred within the series are abstracted self-portraits that trace Raffaella's recent experience of pregnancy and the immediate moments following the birth of her first child. These intimate paintings extend Raffaella's ongoing investigation of perception and memory into the body itself, offering a quiet record of evolution, vulnerability, and presence. The pregnant and post-partum body appears abstracted, held in states of suspension, with form arising through layers of paint in a manner that echoes the instability of Raffaella's own partially-sighted vision, while introducing a directness rooted in lived experience, the maternal body felt rather than seen.



Bianca Raffaella, *Between Heartbeats*, 2025, Acrylic on linen, 150 x 120 cm

Supporting the figurative works is a group of new floral paintings on linen, which, like Raffaella's earlier works, emerge from gestures that capture fleeting impressions of flowers suspended in the artist's "persistent vision." Yet the new series of flowers also carries a distinct, evident emotional current. The introduction of red - a hue largely absent from Raffaella's palette of hushed, muted tones - pulses through the compositions as a visceral expression of tension and ardour. Isolated blooms hover, their textured, embodied presence bearing traces of both tenderness and disruption, reverberating a subtle cadence of transformation and new life.

Bianca Raffaella (b. 1992, London)

Working from memory and sensory cues rather than direct observation, Bianca Raffaella is a British artist and activist. As a partially sighted artist, her ephemeral floral and figurative works draw viewers into her world by capturing fleeting moments suspended in "persistent vision," where her sight is in constant motion, and images appear only briefly as faint shadows or flickers of light. Raffaella's ongoing series of textural flower paintings evokes the artist's experience of beauty in braille, which was how she first learned to read and write.

Raffaella relies on touch in her painting process. Her otherworldly gestures emerge through impasto and hand-painting techniques, which, for Raffaella, verge on the sculptural. Never losing contact with the canvas, she blends delicate hues of blue, beige, and dusty pink until they become an ethereal impression, cloudy details made with fingertips, brushstrokes or scrapes of a palette knife.

In 2016, Raffaella was the first registered blind student to graduate from Kingston University in the Visual Arts, with a First-Class Honours degree, and was awarded the NatWest Entrepreneurship Funding Prize in 2019 for her bespoke sensory fashion label. In 2025 and 2021, Raffaella's work was selected for the Royal Academy of Arts' Summer Exhibition, coordinated by Farshid Moussavi RA and Yinka Shonibare, respectively. In 2023, her solo exhibition, *Hushed Impressions* was shown at Orleans House Gallery. She completed a residency at the Tracey Emin Artist Residency (TEAR) in 2023/4 and 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. In 2025, Bianca Raffaella was awarded Overall Winner of the *Women in Art Prize* and was also the recipient of *Women in Art's* Printing Prize. In 2026, Bianca Raffaella's work featured in *Handpicked: Painting Flowers* from 1900 to Today, at Kettle's Yard, Cambridge.

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. She is an active member of *Layers of Vision* and in 2025, participated in an All-Party Parliamentary Group for Eye Health and Visual Impairment, developing policy recommendations to guide the improvement of access and inclusion programmes for BPS people in UK-based museums.

Exhibition Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday from 11am - 6pm. Monday by appointment.

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Flowers, 21 Cork Street, London W1S 3LZ