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SIOBHAN LIDDELL: BEEN AND GONE

Preview: Thursday, 7 September, 18:00 - 20:00
Exhibition: 8 September - 21 October 2023

Hollybush Gardens is pleased to present *Been and Gone*, the first exhibition with the gallery by British-born, New York-based artist Siobhan Liddell, comprising a new body of works made from 2022 - 2023.

'Poetry might be defined as the clear expression of mixed feelings.'
W.H. Auden

Liddell's work delves into felt moments from the most mundane to the monumental. The buildings, landscapes, gardens and bedrooms, journey us through the multilayered nature of being alive; the subtlety, complexity and intensity of loving, longing and losing. Both melancholy and playfulness are woven through the imagery, where we find echoes of bodies, faces and animals. The ceramic objects cleverly interact in these scenes, challenging our perception of form and space. Lived narratives can be seen and felt, yet the deeper stories within the imagery ultimately remain elusive. As a good poem loses its nuance when explained, Liddell's paintings thrive in their enigmatic essence.

The works in *Been and Gone* explore urban, rural, imagined, and remembered landscapes, from Greenwich Village in New York to the coastline of Kent. Many of the works were made following a trip to the Isle of Skye in the Spring of 2022, such as *Timelessness and Transience* (2022), in which a ceramic cigarette is suspended above a pool of water at the foot of the mountains behind – a juxtaposition of the fleeting and geologic time. In *Trillions of Trillions* (2023), a portrait of the white cliffs of Dover suggests a contemplation of deep time. In this painting, the cliffs fill the entirety of the plane; the multiple layers of chalk are a reminder of the skeletons of plankton, from which they were formed hundreds of millions of years ago. *Through the Window* (2023) depicts cliffs facing out towards Europe, visible in the distance through the panes of a cottage window, and framed by a pair of two paper napkin curtains. Two silhouetted heads shimmer behind a veil of tessellating green ceramic leaves in *The Rustle of Waves* (2022), while in *Julius'* (2022) a pair of legs touch beneath the counter in the iconic New York gay bar. *Before the Light* (2023), captures the outline of a kneeling figure crawling around on the studio floor, perhaps looking for early morning inspiration.

The viewer is invited to meander through these worlds, where tea cups, mushrooms, branches, and hands hold, obscure and dance. Liddell's ability to evoke the sublime from the ordinary, and the ordinary from the sublime, creates fleeting yet enduring poems on the tender nature of existence.

Siobhan Liddell (b. 1965, Worksop) lives and works in New York. She is a graduate of Central Saint Martins, University of Arts, London.

Liddell has presented solo exhibitions at Gordon Robichaux, New York (2022 and 2019); CRG Gallery, New York (2010, 2006, 2002, 1999); Thread Waxing Space, New York (1993); Trial Balloon, New York (1992); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2000); Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris (2010, 2005, 2003, 1995); Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK (2001); Bob van Orsouw, Zurich (2001, 1998); and CCA Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, Japan (1997).

Her work has been included in notable group exhibitions including *Witness: Against Our Vanishing* (curated by Nan Goldin), Artists Space, New York; and the 1995 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Most recently, she has exhibited as part of group exhibitions including *Get Lifted!* (curated by Hilton Als), Karma, New York; *Fragments*, a two-person presentation with Linda Matalon (curated by Ksenia M. Soboleva), Candice Madey, New York; New Museum, New York; White Columns, New York; Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York; Paula Cooper Gallery, New York; Nature Cult (curated by Donald Mofett), McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas; Yokohama Triennale, Japan; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas; Parker Gallery, Los Angeles; and Seoul Museum of Art, South Korea.

Liddell's work is held in the collections of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Dallas Museum of Art. Reviews of her work have appeared in the New York Times, the New Yorker, Frieze, the Brooklyn Rail, the Los Angeles Times, the Village Voice, Art on Paper, and Flash Art.

For press enquiries and further information, please contact: grace@hollybushgardens.co.uk

Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm; or by appointment.