

CORVI-MORA at Neither

Anika Roach

You Before Eyes

04.09.24 – 05.10.24

“This exhibition of new work at Neither expands upon my continued research into sport, principally football. This began in 2021, after watching the European football championship, for the first time and subsequently discovering Justin Fashanu. A footballer, whose sporting achievements in the late 70’s and 80’s were greatly overshadowed by the reality of him being the first openly gay footballer.

However, my continued intrigue expands beyond a specific play of event, rather it is motivated by exploring all aspects of the sport. From the universal fraternity it offers from childhood through puberty to adulthood, to the culture that surrounds it and how the sport has often been utilized as a mouthpiece through which a distinct voice within British culture has historically been given space. Where narrows ideas of gender and racist attitude are largely preserved and directly express through chants, particularly towards black athletes.

The work in *You Before Eyes* began with my observation of gestures I witnessed whilst watching games. These images intuitively intertwined with images from my own archive when I began to draw and paint.”

Anika Roach, 2024