



RUBY *DICKSON*

Rarity Is Commoner Than You Think

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29 May - 28 June 2025

Drawing on her Jamaican and Irish heritage, Dickson's new body of work explores the circulation and representation of Caribbean floriculture, focusing on flowers transplanted from Jamaica to the UK for decoration, agriculture, and commerce. These plants, viewed through a Western gaze, carry a layered history of displacement, nostalgia, and transformation.

Though seemingly a departure, Dickson's flower paintings build upon her acclaimed Kim Kardashian portraits (2024). They borrow the compositions, gestures, and abstracted backgrounds that defined that earlier series to investigate the tokenisation of beauty and its continual redefinition in visual culture. As with her previous work, Dickson sources images from the internet as her starting point, connecting contemporary digital imagery to historical processes and painting traditions.

The exhibition's title, 'Rarity Is Commoner Than You Think', which Dickson discovered on a blog listing endangered Caribbean flora, perfectly encapsulates her artistic intention. Embracing the internet's casual grammar, the phrase distills the tensions she explores between the common and the singular, the vernacular and the historical.

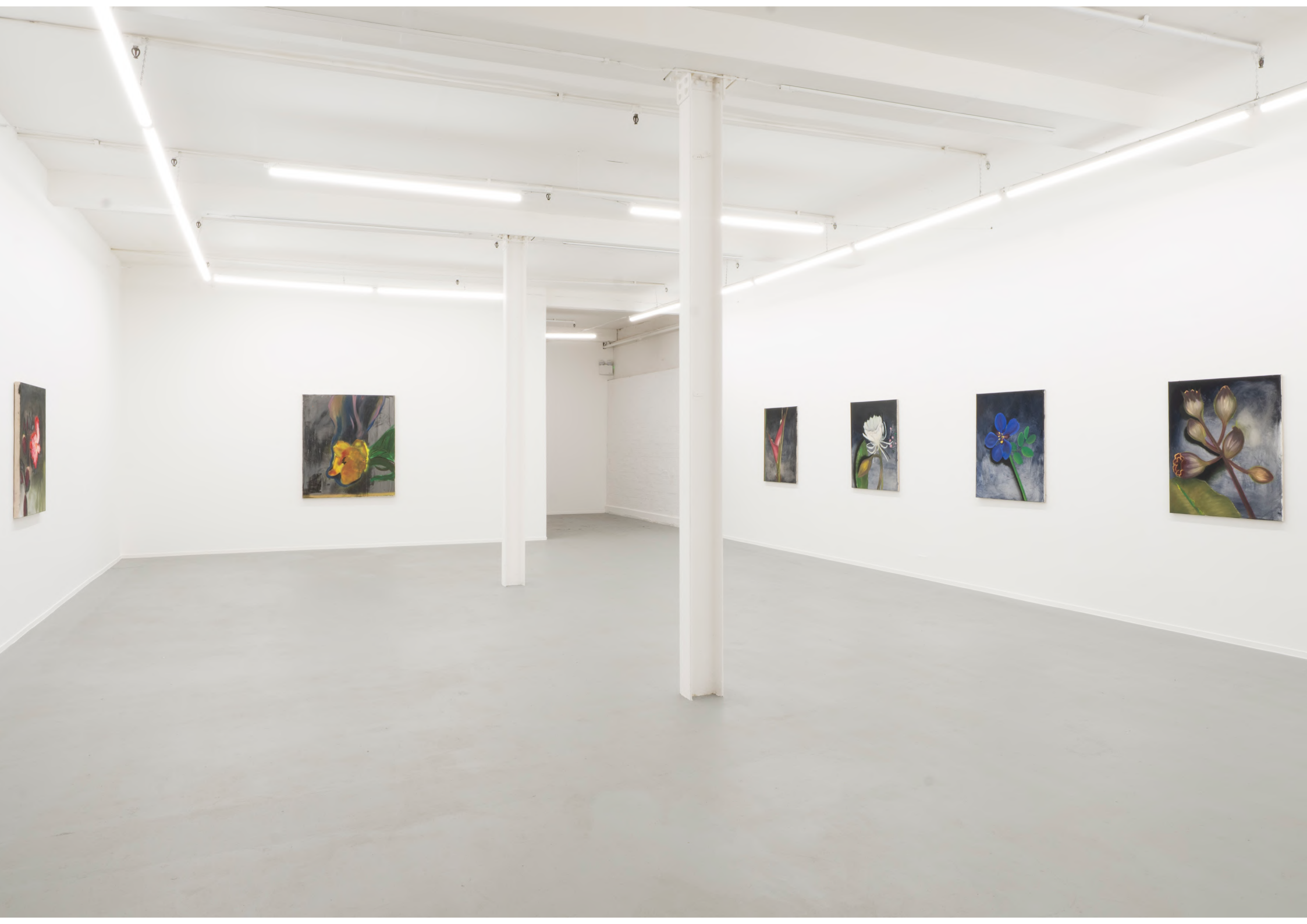
These tensions materialise in Dickson's artistic choices. While her dark backgrounds reference Dutch still life painting, her rapid execution and vigorous brushstrokes create a compelling dialogue between figuration and abstraction, ornamentation and formalism.

Dickson transforms perhaps the most universal of artistic motifs, flowers, into vehicles for examining how familiar imagery functions as a repository for both private and collective desire. From roses and hibiscus to achiotte flowers, love-bush, poppies, and lilies, she portrays species that evoke the transformation of natural elements into commodities and cultural signifiers, while tracing the colonial legacies embedded in their histories.

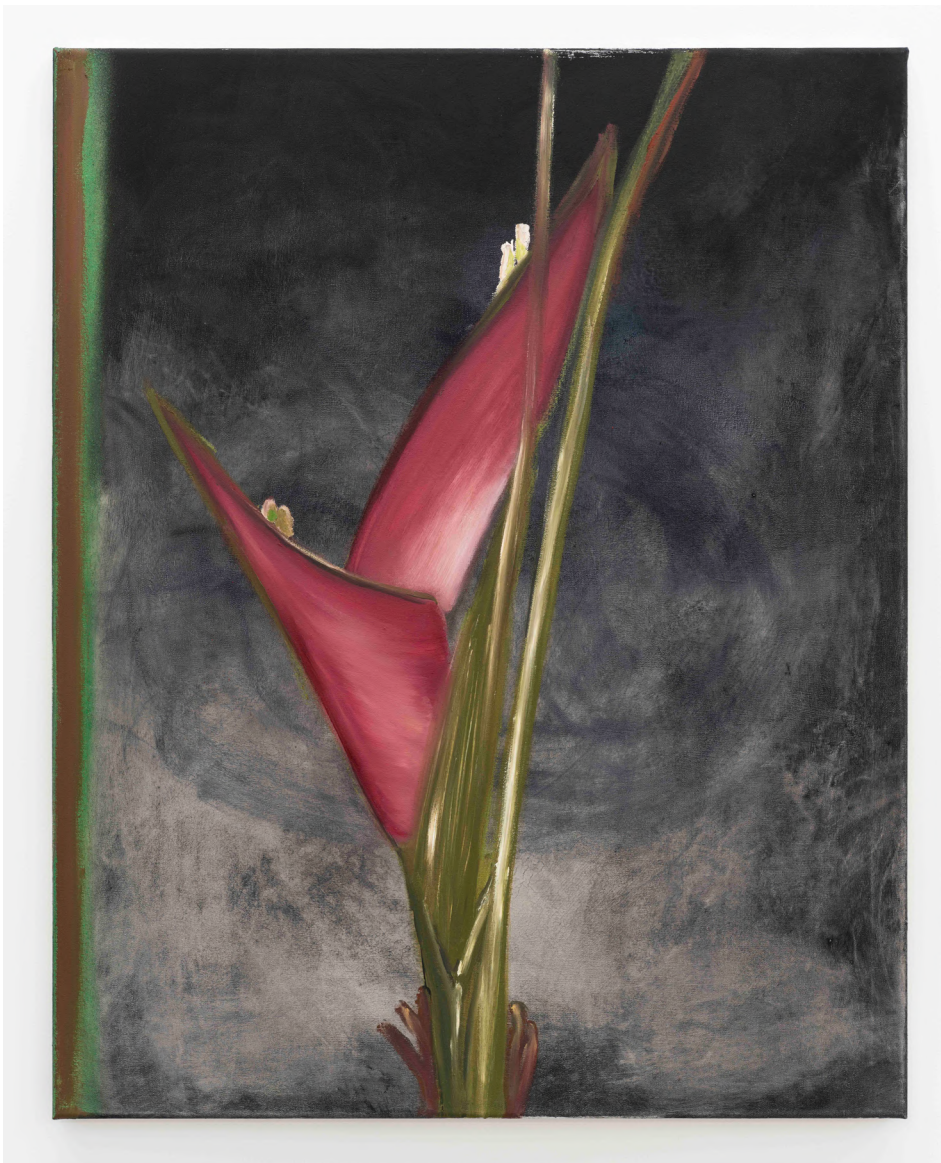
In doing so, Dickson's flowers serve as a lens to examine how origins can be rewritten, or gradually erased by dominant political forces. Drawing connections between traditional still life painting and colonial expansion, her work investigates how tensions between notions of "Britishness" and "Blackness" can be carried within natural organisms and landscape formations.

"Flowers tell stories of movement and transformation, they've been uprooted, transported, replanted, and reimagined, much like people. I'm interested in how we navigate spaces shaped by others while finding new ground within them."

Ruby Dickson was born in 1996. Selected exhibitions include *Maybe my fairy-tale has a different ending than I dreamed it would. But that's OK.*, NiCOLETTi, London, UK (2024); *Independent Art Fair*, New York, USA, with Harlesden High Street (2023); *Minor Attractions*, London (2023); *Maybe The Real Art Is The Friends We Make Along The Way*, The London Arts Board, London, UK (2023); *Apt. 237, 3537*, Paris, FR (2023); *In The House Of Babylon*, site-specific project for Metrolands Brent Biennial, Harlesden High Street and Notting Hill Carnival, London, UK (2022); *Summer Show*, Eve Liebe Gallery, London, UK (2022); *FRIDGE – Brave New World*, Anderson Contemporary, London, UK (2022); *Imagining Otherwise*, Harlesden High Street, London, UK (2022); and *When Shit Hits the Fan, Again*, Guts Gallery, London, UK (2021). Dickson graduated with a BA in Fine Art and Art History from Goldsmiths, University of London (2017).







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*Amazon.com: 2 Roselle Plants, 4 to 6 Inches Tall
Cranberry Starer Plant in 4inch Pot. The leaves
are arrow-shaped, the flowers are unisexual, the
inflorescence is a raceme. The fruit is a bright red,
ovoid, fleshy berry. It has many seeds.*

2025

Oil, Ink, Spray-Paint, Oil Stick, Gesso on Canvas
100 x 80 cm / 39.37 x 31.49 in



RUBY DICKSON

Pernelgerver.com: Jamaican Lady of The Night
2025

Oil, Ink, Spray-Paint, Oil Stick, Gesso on
Canvas

100 x 80 cm / 39.37 x 31.49 in



RUBY DICKSON

*Mytropicalflower.com: My Tropical Flowers,
Lignum Vitae, The Most Elegant Flower*
2025

Oil, Ink, Spray-Paint, Oil Stick, Gesso on
Canvas

100 x 80 cm / 39.37 x 31.49 in

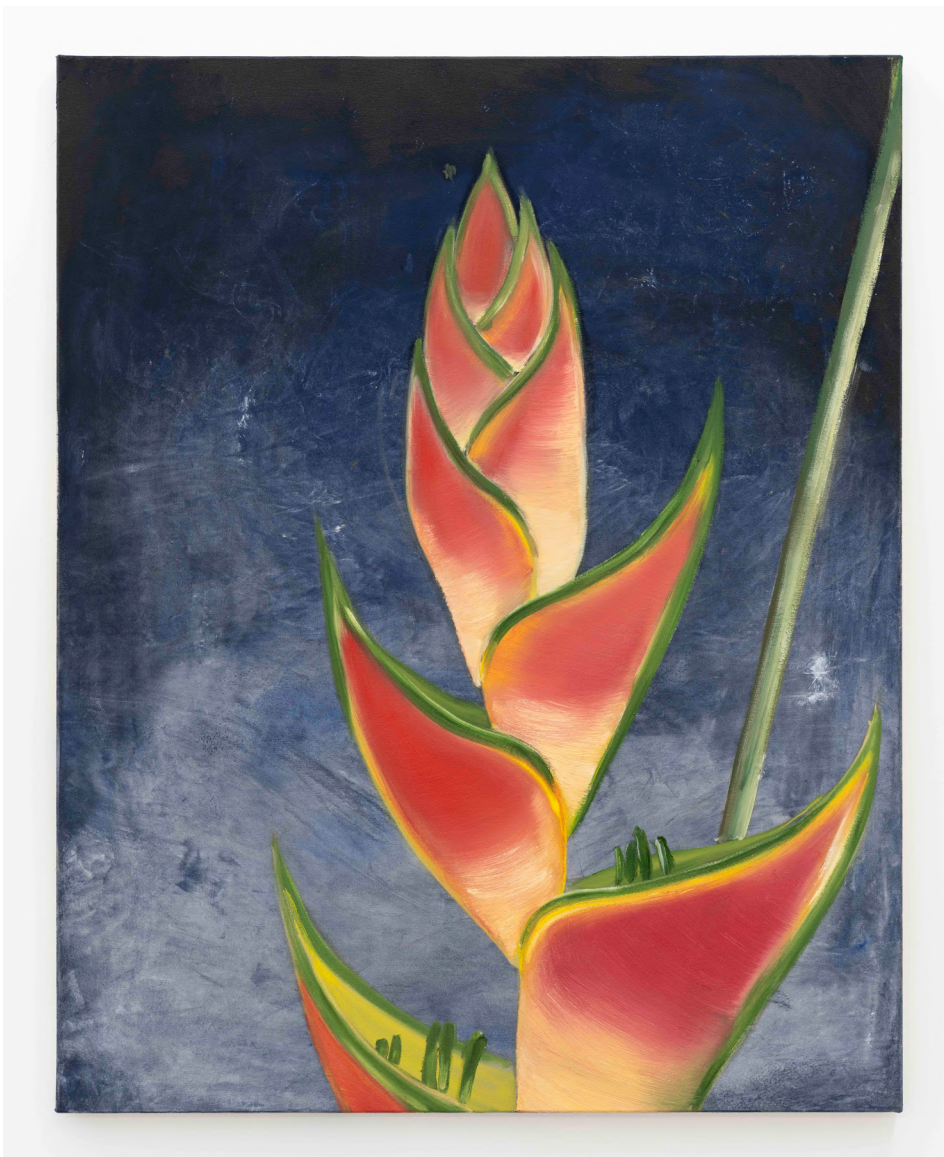




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*GoBuyPlants.com/Jamaica Sunristem Daylily-
Hemerocallis x 'SPD 06-012' PP23403*
2025

Oil, Ink, Spray-Paint, Oil Stick, Gesso on
Canvas
100 x 80 cm / 39.37 x 31.49 in



RUBY DICKSON

realjamaicavacations.com/images/FlowerL_Heliconia.jpg

2025

Oil, Ink, Spray-paint, Oil Stick, Gesso on Canvas

100 x 80 cm / 39.37 x 31.49 in





RUBY DICKSON

Flower on Fire

2025

Oil, Spray-paint, Oil Stick, Ink, Gesso on
Canvas

140 x 120 cm / 55.11 x 47.24 in





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[Myexoticsecret.com/EXOTIC PINK JAMAICAN ORCHID](https://myexoticsecret.com/EXOTIC-PINK-JAMAICAN-ORCHID)

2025

Oil, Ink, Spray-paint, Oil stick, Gesso on
Canvas

100 x 80 cm / 39.37 x 31.49 in



Ruby Dickson, b. 1996 UK, Lives and works in London

EDUCATION

Goldsmiths University Of London, (BAFA) Fine Art
& History Of Art

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024

*Maybe my fairy tale has a different ending than I dreamed it
would. But that's OK*, Nicoletti, London

2023

Maybe The Real Art Is The Friends We Make Along The Way
The London Arts Board, London,

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

Home and Away, Matt Carey Williams, London & Gallery 2,
Seoul

Votive (Curated by Antoine Schafroth), Hypher Studios, Lon-
don

Pothole?, Matt Le Blanc & Good Weather (Curated by Camer-
on Spratley and Ron Ewert), Chicago

2023

Independent Art Fair, New York City

SUPER BÉRÉZINA presents *Apt. 237*, 3537, Paris

New Paintings (Curated by Jack Chase & Dylan Siegel), 555
Greenwich Street, New York

2022

Summer Show, Eve Liebe Gallery, London

FRIDGE - Brave New World, Anderson Contemporary, London

Imagining Otherwise, Harlesden High Street and The Who
Gallery presents, London

2021

When Shit Hits the Fan, Again, Guts Gallery, London

2017

Goldsmiths Fine Art and History Of Art, degree show, Laure
Grove Baths, London

PRESS

[wallpaper.com, Ruby Dickson's Kim Kardashian paintings
explore celebrity culture in London, 2024](#)

[The New York Times, Art Fair Review, The Independent, More
Inclusive Than Ever, 2023](#)

[Art Forum: Dub Inna Babylon, Harlesden High Street, 2022](#)

Emergent Magazine, Two day sound system at Harlesden High
Street, 2022

[plastermagazine.com, The meal deal: Konstantin Zhukov,
Kaye Donachie and Ruby Dickson, 2024](#)

[Emergent Magazine, In The House of Babylon at Harlesden
High Street, 2022](#)

[ARTnews, The Best Booths at Independent New York, From
Monumental Paintings to Tender Photographs, 2023](#)

[emergentmag.com, 'Maybe my fairy-tale has a different ending
than I dreamed it would. But that's OK.', 2024](#)

[postartclarity.net, Ruby Dickson at NiCOLETTi, 2024](#)

[spittle.substack.com, Exhibition of the week, Feb 20, 2024](#)

[hyperallergic.com, What Kim Kardashian Taught Me About Art
Fairs, 2023](#)

[The Wire: In the House of Babylon, 2022](#)

INTERVIEWS

2024

theotherartgirl.com, The Cult of Personality

FAIRS

2024

Mega, Nicoletti & Harlesden High Street

2023

Independent, New York, Harlesden High Street