

[Text panels in Studio 1, reading left to right]

Florence Peake

FACTUAL ACTUAL: Ensemble

Studio 1 & 2

9 May to 16 June 2024

FACTUAL ACTUAL: Ensemble is co-commissioned by Southwark Park Galleries, London, and Towner Eastbourne, in partnership with Fruitmarket, Edinburgh.

This touring commission is made possible with thanks to Arts Council England, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation, The Paul and Louise Cooke Endowment and Ada's Circle. This exhibition is sponsored by Harlequin Floors.

Development supported by Somerset House Studios, La Becque Résidence d'artistes and Wainsgate Dances.

Florence Peake

FACTUAL ACTUAL: Ensemble

Florence Peake is an internationally renowned choreographer and visual artist working across painting, drawing, sculpture, film and live performance. Peake's fifty metre frieze-style painting titled *Ensemble* is presented in two parts, enveloping the gallery walls and surrounding the viewer. This monumental installation embodies her distinctive gestural, movement-marking techniques and was created through workshops with community groups at Southwark Park Galleries.

Peake's combined exhibition and live performances interrogate what painting can be, resisting classical tradition and the idea of the white cube space as the static frame.

Inspired by stories told through canonical imagery such as the Bayeux Tapestry, Parthenon Frieze, religious iconography and murals; the exhibition is epic in form as well as metaphor and meaning, inviting the viewer to be

immersed in the visual environment. In Peake's hands, painting is brought vividly to life through the physical movement of the body and its chaotic relationship to material objects.

Artist Talk

Thursday 16 May 2024, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

£5 standard ticket & concessions available

Florence Peake will speak about her expansive artistic practice, illustrated with filmed snippets of past works and performative demonstrations.

Live Performance

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June 2024

Free, booking required.

A special weekend of live performances will take place at Shackleton Hall in Eastbourne's Welcome Building. Re-interpreting and expanding on a performance at the National Gallery in 2021, *FACTUAL ACTUAL* presents six large scale paintings on unstretched canvases that hang over a gloss floor. The canvases will be animated by six dancers using a rig and pulley system to hoist, lower, collapse, fold and drag the paintings throughout the performances. Shifting between flat and sculptural forms, the interaction of bodies and paintings will create a sea-like sonic soundscape.

Check our website for further details.

[Information on the table in the reading area]

Florence Peake's live performance includes readings from a collection of art history books covering subjects from Byzantine Art to Abstract Expressionism. A selection of these books, combined with more recent publications from the Towner Library, are available to read here.

Would you like to add a new reading to the live performance?

You can choose a few words, a sentence or a paragraph from one of the books in the reading area and write it into the notebook on the table. The notebook will be brought to Shackleton Hall and read aloud as part of the *FACTUAL ACTUAL* live performances on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June.

[Label for the large painting presented in Studio 1 and 2]

Ensemble, 2023

Acrylic paint and oil pastel on canvas

Made with workshop participants: Gaby Agis, Stuti Bansal, Julie Burns, Katya Campeau, Bettina Furnee, Sasha Furnee Horton, Sylvia Hyde, Jarad Jackson, Margaret Jennings, Jill Laudet, Franky Ma, Lyla Maeve, Julian Mlynarski, Ambre Panhard, Sonia Thomas, Marjian Tsatsaros Tyagi, Caroline Wendling, Angus Wood, and Zhao Zhao.

Studio and Production Manager: Jim Tuck.

Courtesy of the artist and Richard Saltoun Gallery
London

[Stepping into the corridor, label on the lilac wall]

Dilston Workshop Series 1-5, 2023

Pencil and ink on paper

Working on a modest scale, Peake's *Dilston Workshop Studies 1-5*, provide an insight into how the monumental *Ensemble* canvases were made.

Peake made these drawings during workshops with community groups in the Dilston Grove space at Southwark Park Galleries, London. Her pencil sketches capture a sense of the body in movement, tumbling over the canvas to create some of the first forms and figures in her fifty-metre painting.

Courtesy of the artist and Richard Saltoun Gallery
London

[Walking through to Studio 2, you can see the other half of the monumental painting *Ensemble*.]

[One more exhibition label can be found behind the wooden structure where a sculptural installation is concealed at the back of the gallery space]

Figures in repose on medallions, looking at paintings, 2023

Acrylic paint, plaster, scrim, wood, sand, and canvas

Floor:

Medallions, 2023

Mixed media on canvas

Wall, left to right:

Coagulated Matter 3, 2021

Mixed media on canvas

Coagulated Matter 2, 2021

Mixed media on canvas

Courtesy of the artist and Richard Saltoun Gallery

London

[Artworks in the window space]

Considerations for a Performance III, 2023-4

Acrylic paint, oil bar pigment, emulsion paint, acrylic primer and oil primer on canvas

Drape 1, 2022

Oil paint, acrylic paint, oil bar pigment and emulsion paint on canvas

Drape 2, 2023

Oil paint, acrylic paint, oil bar pigment and emulsion paint on canvas

Courtesy of the artist and Richard Saltoun Gallery
London

[Artwork in the stairwell]

Considerations for a Performance VIII (Large Orange), 2023-4

Acrylic paint, oil bar pigment, emulsion paint, acrylic primer and oil primer on canvas

Florence Peake is an internationally renowned choreographer and visual artist working across painting, drawing, sculpture, film and live performance.

The large-scale painting draped from the ceiling, is one of several works made by the artist for a live performance titled *FACTUAL ACTUAL*. During the performance, canvases are animated by dancers using a rig and pulley system. Shifting between flat and sculptural forms, the interaction of bodies and paintings create a sea-like soundscape.

FACTUAL ACTUAL will be performed at Shackleton Hall in June 2024.

Courtesy of the artist and Richard Saltoun Gallery
London