
Alan Cristea Gallery

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Exhibition Information October 2017

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Marie Harnett: Still

22 November 2017 - 6 January 2018

Private View Tuesday 21 November 2017



Marie Harnett; *Toys* from *Carol*, 2016. Pencil on paper. Paper and image 10.0 x 15.0 cm © Marie Harnett. Courtesy artist and Alan Cristea Gallery, London.

A major exhibition of new works by British artist Marie Harnett (b. 1983), celebrating fleeting moments of drama, beauty and suspense from contemporary film, will go on show at the Alan Cristea Gallery, London, from 22 November 2017 to 6 January 2018. *Still* includes several new series of drawings and prints by Harnett who is known for her highly detailed, meticulous drawings, derived from film stills.

Harnett comments, "*My interest lies in transforming a digital split second and slowly making it a tangible. By removing colour and taking the still out of its narrative context, I am able to assign the image its own autonomy. Exploring these intricate details allows me to become completely absorbed in the process.*"

Harnett's skilful draughtsmanship and attention to detail leads to instant recognition of familiar cinema stars. These new works include portraits of Cate Blanchet, Rooney Mara, Amy Adams, Michael Fassbender, and Henry Cavill amongst many others. Harnett's process requires her to watch film trailers online without sound or colour, frame by frame, until she finds inspiration. Harnett undermines cinematic process, reverting back to storyboards and the merest hint of plot in a film that she will probably never have watched in its entirety. By removing the stills from their context and reworking them as intricate pencil studies, Harnett focuses on every aspect of pose, light and texture.

This exhibition expands on the scale and techniques Harnett has developed since her first solo exhibition at the Alan Cristea Gallery in 2011. *Still* includes several drawings, which depict minute

details, such as a ribbon, a bow, or a hand. Each drawing is no bigger than a postage stamp. These will be shown alongside her biggest drawing to date, a scene from the film *Carol* (2015) measuring 116 x 206 cm. Harnett often selects only a few scenes from the 200 to 400 images she has saved per trailer. This multitude of source material has allowed Harnett to develop a new series of overlap drawings, where she takes two stills and superimposes one on top of the other. She interrupts the narrative, creating a unique image that takes on its own life and a new story.

Still will also include Harnett's first ever linocuts, which have been inspired by a 16th-century engraving, a depiction of Christ, by Claude Mellan, that was formed almost entirely from a single line spiralling out from the centre of Christ's face. Harnett's linocuts, which can take up to one month to carve, are large scale images built up from black and white curving lines, and depict scenes from *American Hustle* (2013), *Slow West* (2015), and *Brideshead Revisited* (2008).

Recent solo and group exhibitions by Harnett include *Marie Harnett* at Theodore: Art, New York, USA (2017), *Marienbad: A Film as Art* at Bremen Kunsthalle, Bremen, Germany (2015), and *Drawings* at Galleria Bonomo, Rome, Italy (2014). Harnett's works are held in international public and private collections including the Yale Centre for British Art, Connecticut, USA; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA and the British Museum, London, UK.

A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by writer and broadcaster Charlotte Mullins will accompany the exhibition.

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About the artist

Marie Harnett was born in 1983 in Hertfordshire, England. She studied drawing and painting at Edinburgh College of Art, graduating in 2006. In 2007 Harnett was selected for the Contemporary Art Society's ARTfutures at Bloomberg Space, London, and exhibited at The Aspect Prize at the Paisley Museum, Paisley, Scotland.

She has exhibited in group exhibitions all over the world including at the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition, (2009 and 2016); Städtische Galerie Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany (2016); Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, Czech Republic (2016); Kunsthalle Bremen, Bremen, Germany (2015); Galleria Bonomo, Rome, Italy (2014); Pier Arts Centre, Orkney, Scotland (2013); RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (2013); Theodore Art, New York, USA (2013); and Edinburgh City Art Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland (2012).

In April 2011 Alan Cristea Gallery hosted Harnett's first solo exhibition, and has since included her drawings and prints in several group shows. *Still* (22 November 2017 – 6 January 2018) marks Harnett's second solo exhibition at the gallery, following on from her first solo exhibition in the USA at Theodore: Art, New York, in 2017.

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Harnett lives and works in London.

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About Alan Cristea Gallery

Prompted by a continuing ambition to 'paper the world in original art', Alan Cristea opened his eponymous gallery in 1995. The gallery is the primary representative for a number of renowned contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists, and is one of the world's leading publishers of original contemporary prints and editions. Having expanded considerably over the past 21 years, in October 2016 the gallery moved to new, larger, bespoke premises, better suited to the representation of the gallery's growing roster of celebrated and international artists.

The Alan Cristea Gallery is entirely artist-led and is dedicated to assisting artists in bringing new bodies of work to fruition, including editions, works on paper, paintings, sculpture or installations, which are presented in a continuous programme of public exhibitions, events and art fairs. Alongside this, the gallery also draws on Alan's 50 years of experience in the art world to provide unrivalled access to the best examples of original prints by the modern masters of the 20th and 21st centuries, from Naum Gabo, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso to Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney and Andy Warhol.

The gallery continues to extend the legacy of some of art history's most important figures through its work with the Estates of Josef and Anni Albers, Patrick Caulfield, Naum Gabo, Richard Hamilton and Tom Wesselmann.

Visitor information:

Mon - Fri 10am - 5.30pm

Sat 11am - 2pm

Closed on Sundays, bank holiday weekends and public holidays.

Closed 23 December 2017 - 1 January 2018

Travel:

Piccadilly or Green Park tube station

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#MarieHarnett