

# FLO BROOKS IS NOW A GOOD TIME?

Exhibition Dates: 24 November 2017 - 14 January 2018

Wednesday - Sunday 12 - 6pm / Private View: 23 November 2017

For his solo exhibition at Cubitt, Flo Brooks has made a series of paintings which explore the intersections between family, community and place. Made over the past year, the newly commissioned works recall biographical scenarios of intimate everyday scenes between Brooks and his family. Reflecting the specific circumstances of his life, the works question, provoke and interweave ideas around remoteness, care-giving, the absence and presence of (queer) community, and the hormonally and chemically altered body.

This snapshot of life is a personal one. Brooks is a trans person who recently moved back to the South West of England, the place where he grew up, leaving behind London and its support structures: - queer and trans communities and many of his friends.

The paintings depict widely recognisable domestic scenes alongside the minutia and intricacies of a very specific experience. Whilst creating the work in this show Brooks was undergoing Hormone Replacement Treatment (HRT) and subsequently managing the complexities of entering a second puberty as an adult. His main access to transgender and queer spaces was online and forced to co-exist within the familiar, normative structures of the 'home'. Moving back to the place he grew up also involved new and unexpected responsibilities of caregiving, emotional and physical labour and finding out what it means to live together once again.

Figurative appendages and structural supports spurt out from the edges of the paintings, compositionally dividing space, serving as a central metaphor for

the physical and psychological partitions we erect to keep different parts of our lives from meeting and inevitably shifting or collapsing under the weight. The bottle of lube, the birthday card from his grandmother, the tin of opened cat food, the stand-to-pee device, they're not supposed to meet, but what happens if and when they do?

In titling the exhibition *Is now a good time?* Brooks asks, with equal levels of humour and sincerity, how we determine when the time is good, or right, for anything. Touching on a question that's often assumptively asked of him: "do you feel happier now [you're 'post' transition]?", Brooks draws attention to the potential issues in both ascribing a specific narrative to trans people and transition. Is the time ever good? The cat will still knock over the litter tray and rain will still come through the roof. The exhibition describes a way of living and being whereby partitions deteriorate and things meet awkwardly, sometimes painfully, but where impotence and insecurity can generate ingenuity and where queer ways of being can endure and even thrive in surprising places.

Flo Brooks (b. 1987, Devon) lives and works between Brighton and the South-West. Recent exhibitions include Open Source Gillett Square, London, 2016; Inland Art Festival, Cornwall, 2016, and 'Notes for Turtle Salon', a two person show with Charlotte Prodger, White Cubicle Toilet Gallery, London, 2015. He recently launched *Outskirts*, a self-published zine and social portrait project exploring 'liminality' in relation to trans and gender non-conforming identity and experience.

**List of Works**

*In the gristle in the earlobe*, acrylic on wood, 2017  
*Full of sediment, full of doubt*, acrylic on wood, 2017  
*Yes I am too, but who am I really?*, acrylic on wood, 2017  
*Pigs in convo*, acrylic on wood, 2017  
*In that long moment of no control, coals of remembering glow softly*, acrylic on wood, 2017  
*Passing objects*, acrylic on wood, 2017

**Performance**

January 2018 (date TBC)  
Sound Performance by Rachael Finney

**Podcast**

A podcasts will be released during the exhibition including a conversation between Flo Brooks and Cubitt Curatorial Fellow Helen Nisbet as well as discussions between Flo Brooks and Marie-Lucie Brooks, Tim Brooks and Daria Martin

**Thanks to**

Marie-Lucie Brooks, Tim Brooks, Sophie Brown, Ben Borthwick, Cron Cronshaw, Rachael Finney, Daria Martin, Irene Revell and of course, Flo Brooks

Graphic Design by Cecilia Serafini

If there is anything we can do to address your accessibility needs for this exhibition please get in touch [info@cubittartists.org.uk](mailto:info@cubittartists.org.uk)