

ANNUAL COMMISSION: TRULEE HALL
8 October – 14 March 2021



Golden Corn Entryway with Boob Fountain, 2018
Installation view at Maccarone, Los Angeles. Photo: Coley Brown

This year's Annual Commission is the first UK exhibition of American artist Trulee Hall, following her sold-out operatic performance at Zabłudowicz Collection in March 2020. Debuting her newly commissioned project alongside works from the Collection and a number of videos, paintings and sculptures, the exhibition presents work made over the past two years.

The space of the gallery is transformed by a series of Hall's self-contained, elaborate vignettes – the viewer moves through discordant scenes, each presenting a tangled meta-narrative. Installations comprising video, sculpture, paintings, composed soundtracks, and kinetic mechanisms create dense environments that invite the visitor to step around, peep through, and settle in, allowing a fractured and faceted perspective. Reappearing tropes populate the exhibition; stylised female nudes with mouths agape, rendered in gold and primary colours; bodies of many ages, genders and sizes relishing their physicality; and often repeated phallic serpents and corncobs.

At the heart of Hall's practice is a humorous and unabashed 'erotic grotesque', a fun-house panopticon of cyclical looking – where glory holes, peeping toms, nightmare monsters and sexy bodies jostle for attention. Not one to pass judgement or be constrained by binaries, Hall prods the oppositions of real and fake, gender and sexuality, object and subject, dominant and submissive, good and bad, silly and serious. Her multi-layered works topple in on themselves like so many wobbly movie set backdrops, burying the viewer in unorthodox representations, requiring them to assimilate and synthesise a unique experience.

At the centre of the exhibition is *Tongues Duel the Corn Whores, An Opera*, a commission that began as a performance of the same name, realised in the space. An exploration of ritual and sexuality, the work weaves together Hall's original score, libretto and choreography with an elaborate set, costumes, and props, rendered in her often used trifecta of CGI, clay animation and live footage. The opera revolves around two female archetypes: the conservative and spiritual 'Madonna' and the hedonistic and provocative 'Whore'. As usual in Hall's work, live footage begets CGI, begets claymation, begets live footage – there is no hierarchy of reality or rendering.

Trulee Hall's work is informed by her childhood growing up in the Southern state of Georgia, her current home of Los Angeles, and a background working on film sets, in artist studios and as a tech for major theme parks. This informs the alchemy of her practice, fuelling her embrace of lavish simulacra; her objects and characters are stand-ins for larger propositions or archetypes. The worlds Hall creates are enchanting and enticing, yet retain an underlying uneasy seediness that permeates their experience – inviting the viewer to question if the discomfort they feel is warranted or is a result of their own internalised prudishness. A show of this breadth firmly places Hall and her work in the legacy of LA-based artists whose sense of the theatrical teeters towards revelling in the darker underbelly of our pop-culture psyches; with roots in Edward Kienholz, through Paul McCarthy and Kaari Upson.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of live and online events, and the launch of Hall's first monograph publication.

We are proud to be supporting Women + Health, a Camden based health charity that helps isolated and vulnerable women, including those who are survivors of domestic violence and rape, to overcome their multiple health challenges. An online exhibition of artwork produced by women artists during the pandemic will be for sale online from 26 November to 25 December 2020. A special fundraising event will take place on 26 November including talks by the project's co-curator Frances Borzello and psychotherapist and writer Susie Orbach. For more information please see www.womenandhealth.org.uk/our-philosophy or email womens.lockdown.art@gmail.com

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Trulee Hall (b. 1976) received her BFA from Atlanta College of Art in 1999 and her MFA from CalArts in 2006. Hall's first gallery solo exhibition, *The Other and Otherwise*, was held at Maccarone Los Angeles in 2019. Other recent projects include *All of Them Witches* at Jeffrey Deitch in Los Angeles, *Infestation*, a video and sculptural installation at Paramount Studios for Frieze Projects (curated by Ali Subotnick), as part of the inaugural Frieze Los Angeles. Exhibitions and screenings of her work have been held at the Rubell Family Collection, Hammer Museum, Redcat, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND), Human Resources LA, Barrick Museum of Art, Michael Benevento Gallery, OUTFEST LA, The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Billy Wilder Theatre, Yale Union and Los Angeles' Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) among other numerous exhibitions and screenings internationally. She is represented by Maccarone, Los Angeles.

Zabludowicz Collection Annual Commission: Trulee Hall, *Tongues Duel The Corn Whores: An Opera* (2020). Supported by Maccarone Gallery Los Angeles. Opera performance curated and produced by Antonia Blocker with Production Assistant Lara Munro. Exhibition curated by Antonia Blocker and Elizabeth Neilson.

Two Heads, Two Ways (Video), (2020), commissioned by Daata and available on daata.art

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is an independent philanthropic organisation that is home to a growing collection of contemporary art, and a programme of exhibitions, events and residencies, in collaboration with leading British and international artists. Since its foundation in 1994 the Collection has been dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art by creating developmental opportunities and support for emerging and mid-career artists, curators and organisations.

UK registered charity number 1120067.

For more information, images or any other press enquiries please contact:

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VISITOR INFORMATION

COVID-19 Update: We are working hard to ensure the safety and security of all staff and visitors. As a priority, we are implementing changes throughout the gallery, and all processes will be reviewed and adapted according to government safety directives.

Admission: FREE

Thursday–Sunday,
12–6pm or by appointment

Café, Library and Shop

The **Shop** sells limited edition artworks, 50% of the proceeds go directly to the artist.

shop.zabludowiczcollection.com

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