

Press Release

GLOAM

An Exhibition of new work by Nick Fox & Amanda Holiday
Curated by Vivienne Roberts

Private View: Tuesday 7th January 6 - 8 pm

Exhibition Dates: 8th January – 6th February 2024

Venue: Vivienne Roberts Projects, The Bindery, 53 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8HN

Opening Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11 am – 5 pm

Special Opening: Saturday 11th January, 12 pm – 5 pm

Vivienne Roberts Projects is delighted to present *Gloam*, a captivating new exhibition by artists Nick Fox and Amanda Holiday, featuring their intertwined explorations of mythology, personal history, and the transformative power of materials. Curated by Vivienne Roberts, *Gloam* invites viewers into a world where mythological symbols, personal stories, and the lustrous beauty of gold converge to create works that are both deeply personal and profoundly universal.

The exhibition is punctuated by a unique conversational text, a mutual interview between the two artists, in which they discuss their shared use of gold and its symbolic and material significance in their work. Both artists explore gold as a medium that transcends its decorative qualities, embracing its mythological, symbolic, and even alchemical connotations. In their works, gold becomes a conduit for storytelling, emotional depth, and historical resonance.

Amanda Holiday reflects on her personal journey with gold, from initial scepticism to embracing its luminous qualities. In her words, gold's "generosity" in offsetting other colours and its ability to convey an almost "religious" or transcendent quality has become central to her practice. Nick Fox, too, draws on gold's mythological resonance, using it to imbue his works with intimate, emotional meanings. Together, they create an exhibition where gold takes on a life of its own, illuminating their respective narratives with its rich and ancient symbolism.

Gloam explores themes of love, longing, and transformation, with both artists drawing on personal histories and mythological references. Nick Fox's work, including pieces inspired by Eros mythologies and his *Inferno* series, evokes a journey of revelation and self-examination. Meanwhile, Amanda Holiday's work, such as *Mess of Pottage* and *Mummy Whirl*, fuses historical references with contemporary concerns, creating a dialogue between past and present, darkness and light, the seen and unseen.

The exhibition's title, *Gloam*, evokes a sense of twilight or the fading light of dusk, a fitting metaphor for the way in which both artists' works explore the liminal space between the known and the mysterious, the light and the dark.

As Vivienne Roberts notes in her curatorial approach, the artists' use of gold and their shared interest in mythology and storytelling drew her to bring these works together. "There is an alchemical quality to their work, a way in which personal histories and universal themes of love, loss, and transformation are entwined," she says. "The resulting exhibition is both intimate and expansive, inviting viewers to reflect on the deep, often hidden meanings that shape our lives."

We invite you to join us for the opening night on Tuesday 7 January or on Sat 11th, where you can meet the artists and experience the works that weave together the personal, the mythological, and the transcendent.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



AMANDA HOLIDAY

London based artist and poet Amanda Holiday was active in the British Black Art movement of the 1980s and exhibited her artwork in key shows of the time including *Some of Us Are Brave*, (Black Art Gallery), *The Image Employed* (Cornerhouse, Manchester) and *Black Art, Plotting the Course*, (Wolverhampton Art Gallery & tour)

before moving into film. Her 1989 Arts Council funded documentary *Employing The Image* featured the early work of several UK black artists including Sonia Boyce and Zarina Bhimji, while her BFI funded experimental drama *Miss Queencake* re-imagines a slice of Gauguin's life as a northern boat movie. In 2001 Holiday moved to South Africa where she worked in educational television.

On her return to the UK with her daughter, Holiday resumed art making and later started writing poetry. Her chapbook *The Art Poems* was published in 2018 as part of New Generation African Poets and other writing has been published in journals internationally. In 2020 she founded Black Sunflowers Poetry Press with a focus on women and black poets and is currently completing a PhD at the University of Brighton.

Her 1987 drawing 'Red Riding Hood' was shown as part of *Women in Revolt!* at Tate Britain and a recent drawing 'It is' was auctioned as part of this year's Drawing Room Biennial. Holiday is the 2024 recipient of the Peut Guard Artist Award as well as a forthcoming travel fellowship to the Smithsonian (NMAAHC).

NICK FOX

Nick Fox (born Durban, SA, 1972) studied at Liverpool John Moores (1992-1995) and Royal Academy Schools (1998-2001). Fox lives in London and Newcastle upon Tyne, UK where he is Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Newcastle University.

Fox's work and research draws on queer histories, folklore, myth, literature, personal and subcultural symbols that speak to narratives and thresholds of desire, longing and to the complexities of intimate personal relationships, giving rise to a keen sense both of the pleasures and the limits of double meanings in the construction of codes.

In his visual art practice, Fox explores relationships, between raw sentiment and its symbolic, visual and material articulation through painting, drawing, object d'art, cyanotype photograms, sculptural installation and participatory projects. *The work* gives form to ideas of transition, transformation, and to the uncertainty with communicating and connecting across the emotional spectrum.

Fox has exhibited extensively nationally and internationally. Solo exhibitions include *You make me feel*, FILET Space London (2023); *Half-light*, Vane Newcastle (2016); *Nightsong*, Touring from Norway (2012) to Newcastle and London (2015), *Phantasieblume* London (2009) touring to Newcastle and Norway.

In 2015 Fox presented *BadSeed*, a survey exhibition of over 100 works as part of Queer Season the first LGBTQ festival at Sutton House, National Trust. Fox was a Recipient of the Jerwood Contemporary Painters Award (2007), and in 2010, he was a prizewinner of the John Moores Painting Prize, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

His work has produced two artist monographs, 'Nick Fox: Phantasieblume', published by Centre for Recent Drawing and Art Editions North (2010) and *Nick Fox Nightsong* published by Art Editions North (2013).

In 2023, Fox performed/DJ'd Longing Disco, a Live participatory project exploring the symbolic role of loss and music as a transformative tool for human relationships, at EMST - National Gallery of Contemporary Art, Athens.

Nick Fox has Work in numerous private and public collections Including the collections of the Walker Art Gallery Liverpool, Museum of Contemporary Art, London, Jean Pigozzi, Jigsaw, David Roberts Foundation, AN Magazine, and Sir Norman Rosenthal.

VIVIENNE ROBERTS PROJECTS

Vivienne Roberts Projects is a contemporary art gallery based in the heart of London's Hatton Garden. Dedicated to presenting thought-provoking exhibitions that engage with both personal and collective narratives, the gallery aims to foster meaningful dialogue between artists and audiences.

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