



RACHEL DEACON

*Front Cover: Velvet Treason* 91 X 71 cm Oil on linen

# Rachel Deacon

## Solo Exhibition

March 2014

CATTO GALLERY

100 Heath Street • Hampstead • London NW3 1DP  
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Is it possible to tell a story in a painting? Well, maybe not in the sense of "beginning, middle and end". But paintings can suggest a narrative. They can present one reality while hinting tantalisingly at another. And there are few better at this than Rachel Deacon, whom the Catto is pleased to welcome back for her second show.

Rachel is quite open in her passion for story telling. She regularly uses the written word as inspiration for her work, fixing on a poem or short story as the start point for a series of sketches that will evolve into the finished piece.

This is how Rachel imbues her luminous oil paintings with mystery and ambiguity. Take *Green Tips And Roots* from the new collection: two beautiful ruby-lipped women delicately peel a barrel of juicy apples. They are quite demure, with their downcast eyes and buttoned up floral blouses. A dog looks up wistfully. But these women are in a forest, and they have apples. The suggestion of sin is never far away...

In another multi-layered work, *Darkness*, a reclining woman shares the canvas with a jet black raven. It's a startling image conjured by an artist in total control of the narrative. But just when you think Rachel's imagination is full of nocturnal transgression, she serves up something like *A Tender Token* and we're plunged into a world of home cooking and domestic contentment.

What unites all these works, of course, is the flair of their execution. They may be modern in their sensibility, but in terms of composition they look back to the classical masters. The three part harmony of *Tempting Virtue?* There's Titian and Raphael in there, and certainly later classicists like Ingres. The debt is even more explicit in *The Fall Of The Waves*.

The artist is happy with this classical precedent. She says: "I embrace the tradition of the classical composition, and the presenting of an archetypal view. This helps in the re-telling of the story I am working from."

Rachel Deacon has been story-telling on canvas since leaving the Chelsea School of Art in 1991. Every year her immense talent gathers more fans.

See for yourself at this new Catto exhibition. Big shimmering works full of glamour and mystery. With the odd owl. And cakes.



PRECIOUS APPAREL  
61 X 51 cm Oil on linen



TEMPTING VIRTUE  
71 X 91 cm Oil on linen



GREEN TIPS AND ROOTS  
61 X 76 cm Oil on linen



PLAYING THE GAME  
76 X 61 cm Oil on linen





BATHER IN POLKA DOTS  
61 X 76 cm Oil on linen



EVENING'S PROMISE  
61 X 76 cm Oil on linen



DARKNESS  
76 X 101 cm Oil on linen



MY NIGHTINGALE  
91 X 71 cm Oil on linen



THE MESSENGER'S SONG  
51 X 61 cm Oil on linen



SURREPTITIOUS SURRENDER  
76 X 122 cm Oil on linen



INCANTATION  
91 X 71 cm Oil on linen



HIGH JINKS  
76 X 61 cm Oil on linen





A TENDER TOKEN  
61 X 76 cm Oil on linen



THE CONFIDANTES  
101 X 76 cm Oil on linen



THE RIVAL  
71 X 91 cm Oil on linen



THE AUDITION  
61 X 51 cm Oil on linen



THE PEARL BRACELET  
71 X 91 cm Oil on linen



SLEEPING IN BLUE  
61 X 76 cm Oil on linen



THE FALL OF THE WAVES  
71 X 91 cm Oil on linen



HUSTLE AT THE BIG HOUSE  
71 X 91 cm Oil on linen





HOPE'S WINGS  
61 X 51 cm Oil on linen



THE END OF THE STORY  
51 X 61 cm Oil on linen



AT THAT HOUR  
71 X 91 cm Oil on linen



THE SCRIPT  
51 X 61 cm Oil on linen



THE WILD BRANCHES  
76 x 61 cm Oil on linen



RESTORATION  
91 X 71 cm Oil on linen



VICARIOUS WISDOM  
51 X 61 cm Oil on linen

Back Cover: **The Letter** 61 X 76 cm Oil on linen



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Opening times: 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat • 12.30pm - 6pm Sunday • and by appointment

EXHIBITION DATES: 6th March – 25th March 2014

