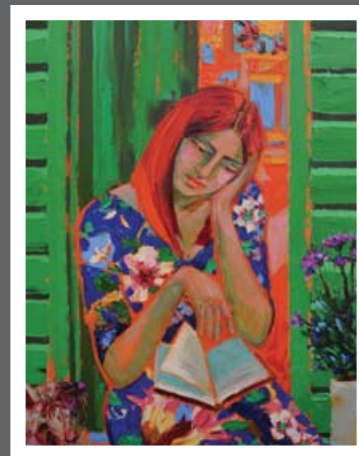
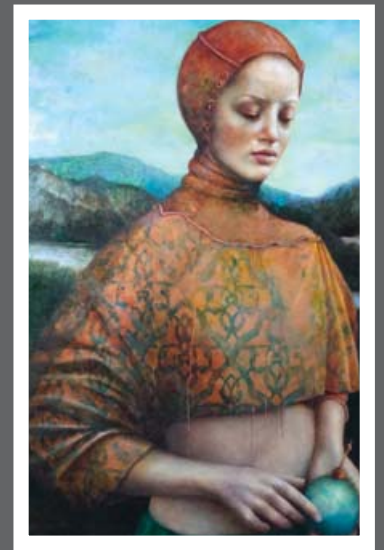
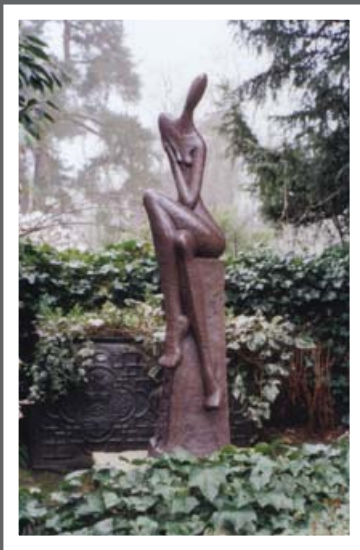


# WOMEN PAINTING WOMEN



“I will show your illustrious lordship what a woman can do”

These were the defiant words of renaissance painter Artemisia Gentileschi to her patron Don Antonio Ruffo in 1649. Gentileschi needed to be resolute. She was a woman in a man’s world. But against the odds she succeeded. Gentileschi became a celebrated artist in her time. And though her name all but disappeared in subsequent centuries, Gentileschi’s reputation has recently been restored. In 2020, she was the subject of a sell-out solo exhibition at the National Gallery.

Gentileschi’s story is part of a wider narrative concerning the rediscovery of women in art. In recent years London has hosted a series of acclaimed retrospectives – Leonora Carrington, Paula Rego, Anni Albers – by female artists. Meanwhile the valuations of female-made work has been rising. It’s notable that the highest reported sale at Art Basel in 2022 was a spider sculpture by Louise Bourgeois. It sold for \$40 million.

It’s about time. The truth is female painters and sculptors have been scandalously ignored by academics and historians. Here’s a telling fact. The first edition of EH Gombrich’s *The Story of Art* – widely regarded as the definitive introduction to western art – featured no female artists at all. In its 16th edition, it had one.

Of course it’s true that, for centuries, social factors held women back from pursuing a career in art. But that didn’t mean there were no female artists. In fact, thousands of women created beautiful and thoughtful work in relative obscurity. Now we can see (some of) it. In 2022, curator and art historian Katy Hessel wrote a book called *The Story of Art Without Men* (a sly reference to Gombrich). The book is a treasure trove of fascinating work by largely forgotten names beginning with two 15th-century painters, Catherine de’ Vigri and Properzia de’ Rossi, and taking us to the present day through the stories of more than 300 artists.

All of the above reflects a rapidly changing narrative around women in art. At the Catto, we noticed it. Over the years our track record on showing work by female painters and sculptors has been pretty good. Still, we decided it was time to curate a themed event that would contribute to the conversation.

The result is this show: *Women Painting Women*. It gathers together a group of female artists and focuses purely on portrait work. Some of the artists will be familiar to the Catto audience (Rachel Deacon, Pam Hawkes, Ania Hobson, Jhuma Sharma Roy, Helen Sinclair), but we are also delighted to welcome two debutantes (Lucy Doyle, Ruth Addinall).

The show is a showcase for different approaches. There’s a certain female insight and empathy on display here. But most of all, there’s talent. And that speaks for itself regardless of gender.



The Handmaid’s Tale by Helen Sinclair,  
Height 59cm, Bronze, Edition of 7

# Women Painting Women

Ruth Addinall  
Rachel Deacon  
Lucy Doyle  
Pam Hawkes  
Jhuma Sharma Roy

Also featuring work by Ania Hobson  
and sculpture by Helen Sinclair.

CATTO GALLERY

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# RUTH ADDINALL

Ruth Addinall didn't have a conventional route into painting and sculpture. In fact, she started out as a scholar. She studied French at Edinburgh in the 1980s, but it was a short course in Art History that sparked her interest in becoming a working artist. Soon after, she taught herself to paint. Later she received more formal education via a painting sabbatical in Paris and a course at the Frink School of Sculpture. Today, Ruth's contemplative portraits and sculptures have made her popular with collectors and gallery curators. She lives and works in Edinburgh, and has been regularly exhibited since the 1990s.



Woman Reading, (Bas Relief) Concrete, 56 x 39cm



Pearl Girl, 96 x 66cm, Oil on Canvas



Seated Figure, 92 x 46cm, Oil on Canvas



Indulgent Mistress, 120 x 64cm, Oil on Panel



Study in Orange and Grey, 107 x 76cm, Oil on Canvas



Seated Woman with Coffee Pot,  
107 x 59cm, Oil on Canvas



A La Piscine,  
107 x 51cm, Oil on Panel



The Bather by Helen Sinclair,  
Height 131cm, Bronze



# RACHEL DEACON

Looking for a vision of sensual, carefree contemporary femininity? Go to a Rachel Deacon exhibition. Rachel paints erotically charged portraits of women in a style that recalls the classical masters. But there's a big difference: subject matter. Instead of acting out scenes of Greek myth, Rachel's women give each other tattoos, fill cars with petrol and do falconry. Since graduating from Chelsea School of Art in 1991, Rachel has become a very successful artist with an instantly recognisable style. She has exhibited regularly at the Catto since 2012.



The Turn of the Tide, 71 x 92cm, Oil on Canvas



Talisman, 101 x 153cm, Oil on Canvas



The Binding Lavalier, 72 x 91cm, Oil on Canvas



Remarkably Bright Creatures, 61 x 92cm, Oil on Canvas



Frippery and Frolics, 46 x 61cm, Oil on Canvas



Flourish at Dusk, 51 x 61cm, Oil on Canvas



Daylight Drowsing, 61 x 45cm, Oil on Canvas



Life at a Distance by Helen Sinclair, Height 51cm, Bronze

# LUCY DOYLE

Irish artist Lucy Doyle has been painting her outrageously colourful works since 1982 when she graduated from art college. In terms of subject matter, she says she has been working in the same raw materials across the decades. Most paintings feature floral prints, ceramics, flattened perspectives with joyously attired women. Lucy says the pivotal moment in her artist journey came when attending the Great Japan exhibition at the National Gallery in 1981. But she also loves the colour-inspired painters of the early 20th century in particular Bonnard and Matisse. Today, Lucy's work is in many private and public collections. Many of her paintings have been acquired for Ireland's permanent state art collection.



Mitsouko and Rouge, 91 x 76cm, Oil on Canvas





Summer Song, 122 x 91cm, Oil on Canvas



Bedtime Story, 91 x 76cm, Oil on Canvas



Sprigged Muslin, 91 x 76cm, Oil on Canvas



Studio Steps, 91 x 76cm, Oil on Canvas



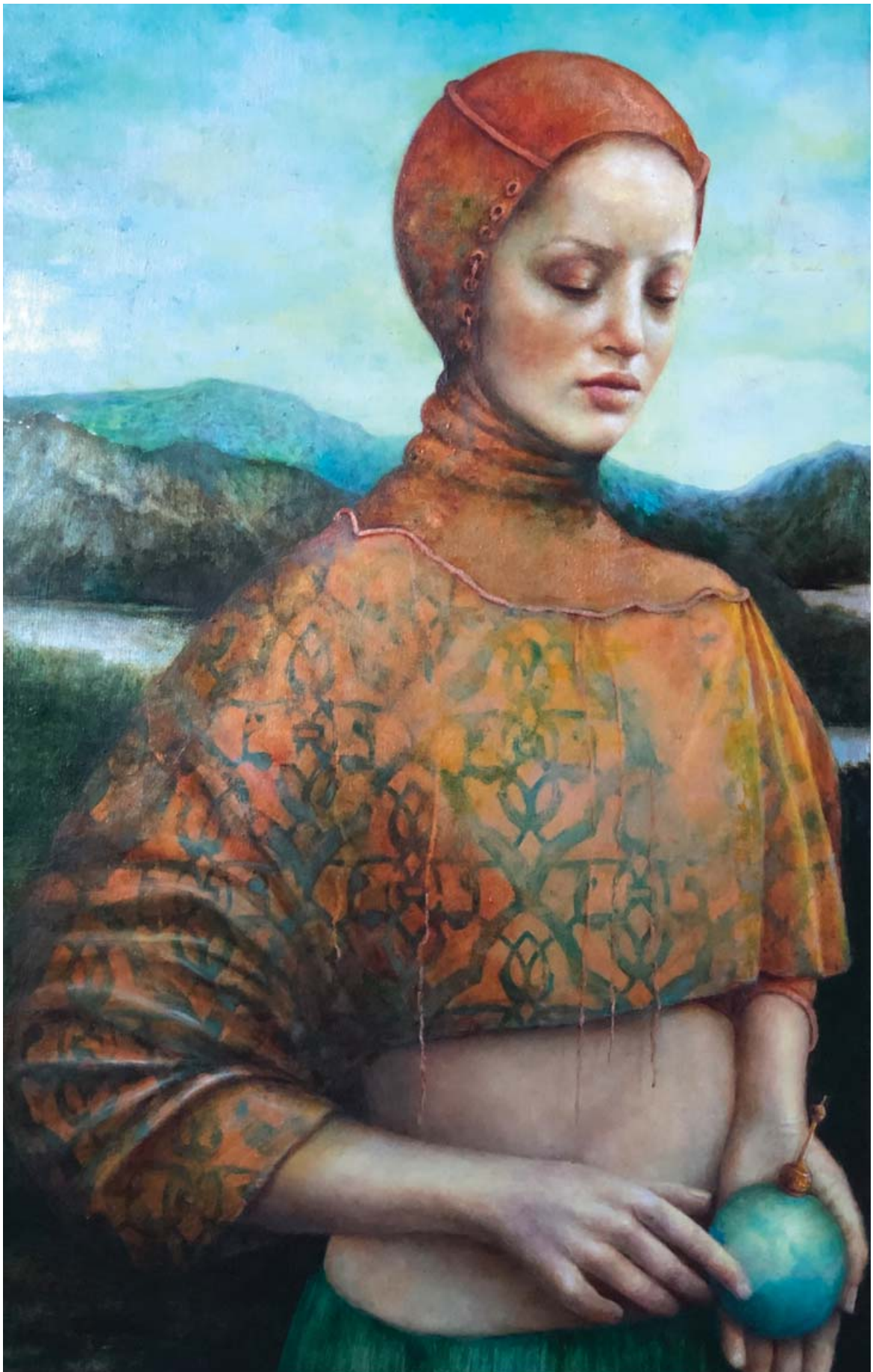
If You Leave Me Sighing by Helen Sinclair, Height 166cm, Bronze

# PAM HAWKES

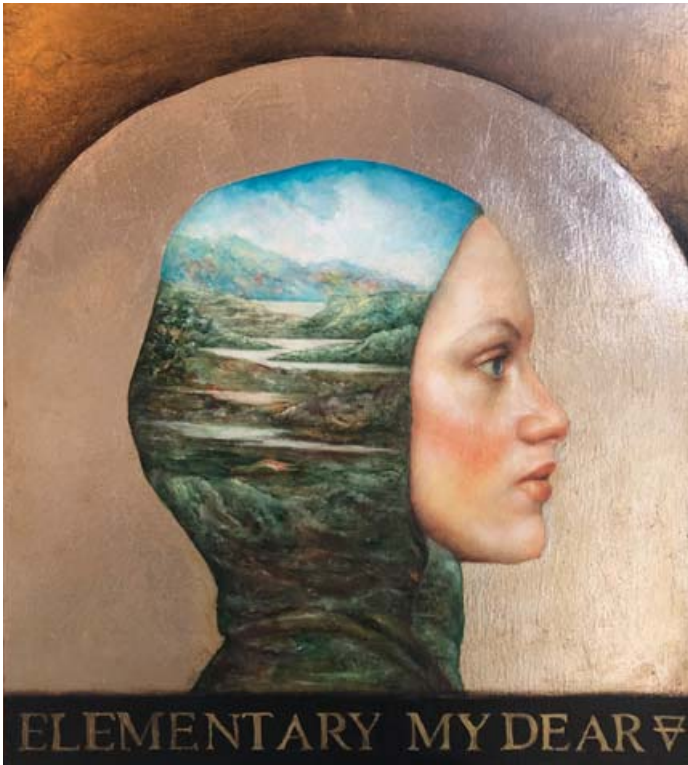
It's hard to think of a more appropriate artist for this show than Pam Hawkes. The Birmingham-based painter focuses almost exclusively on the many faces of women. She paints ethereal female subjects and frequently shrouds them with fruit, flowers, gold, leaves and other adornments. The result is a dreamy quality that is utterly unique – and extremely popular. Pam made it the hard way. She went to art school as a teenager. But being a single mum got in the way of a career in art. That changed when she reached her thirties. Today, Pam is a lecturer and an award-winning painter, beloved by collectors all over the world.



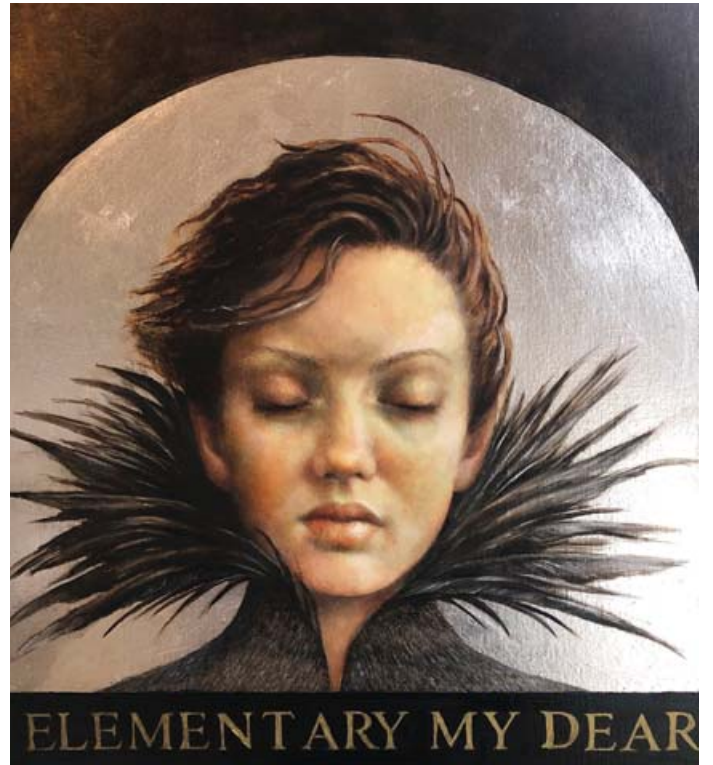
Lily, 80 x 70cm, Oil on Metal Leaf on Linen



Threads, 98 x 60cm, Oil on Metal Leaf on Canvas

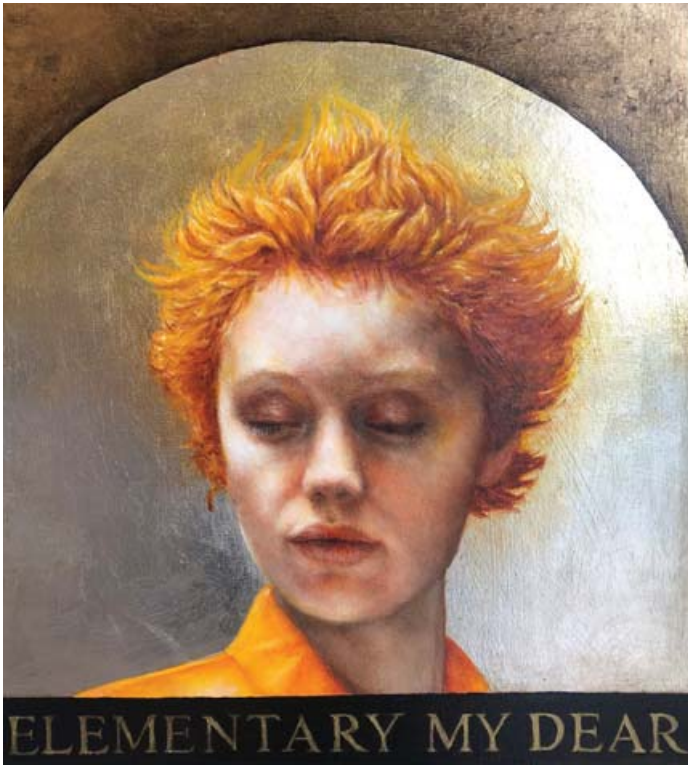


Elementary My Dear - Earth,  
46 x 50cm, Oil on Metal Leaf on Canvas

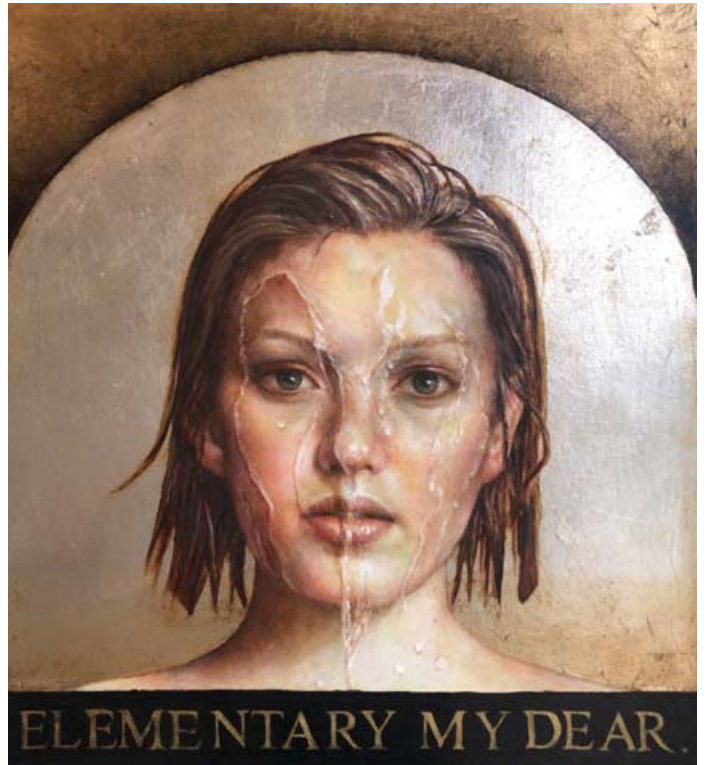


Elementary My Dear - Air,  
46 x 50cm, Oil on Metal Leaf on Canvas





Elementary My Dear - Fire,  
46 x 50cm, Oil on Metal Leaf on Canvas



Elementary My Dear - Water,  
46 x 50cm, Oil on Metal Leaf on Canvas

# JHUMA SHARMA ROY

Jhuma Sharma Roy is one of a small group of Indian born painters who combines traditional methods with a modern sensibility. It's a very appealing combination, which has resulted in numerous shows in India and also at the Royal Academy Summer exhibition, the Mall Galleries and, of course, the Catto. Jhuma was born and brought up in Assam but now lives and works in London as a full-time painter and printmaker.



Women with Pomegranate, 90 x 90cm, Acrylic and Pen on Canvas



Doo Wah Diddy by Helen Sinclair, Height 68cm, Bronze, Edition of 9



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Opening times: 10am - 5.30pm Mon-Sat  
12.00 - 5pm Sunday • and by appointment

Exhibition dates: 8th – 27th June 2023