

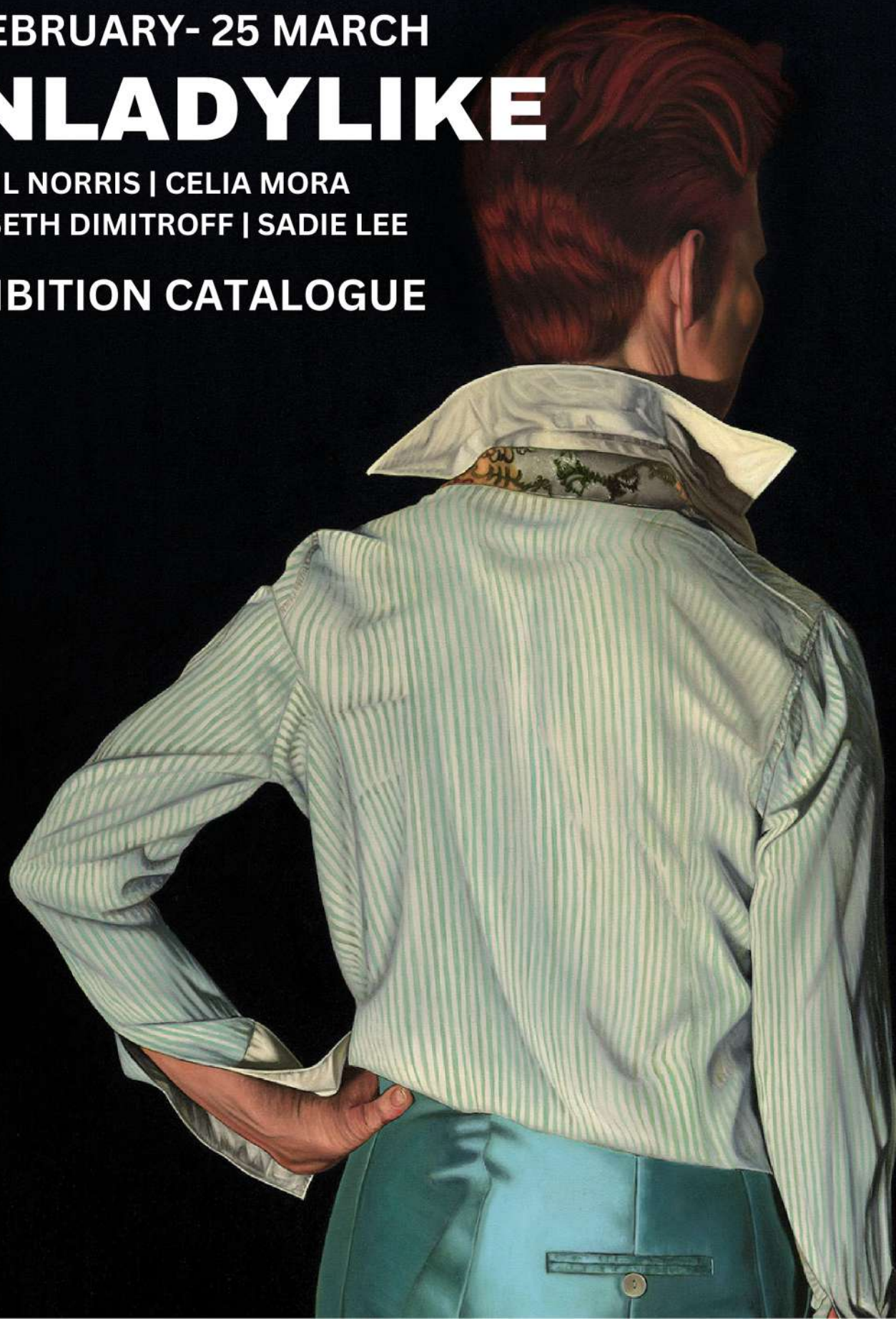
28 FEBRUARY- 25 MARCH

# UNLADYLIKE

ABIGAIL NORRIS | CELIA MORA

ELIZABETH DIMITROFF | SADIE LEE

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE



D Contemporary is pleased to present Unladylike, a group show featuring Sadie Lee, Celia Mora, Elizabeth Dimitroff, and Abigail Norris.

In celebration of International Women's Day, the group exhibition pursues the idea of the human body as a metaphor for the transcendent female representation in art through sexuality, gender, and the aging body. Surfacing the complexities of the ever-evolving relationship between body and identity, a series of intimate portraits encourages us to embrace ourselves and discuss taboos. Partners, achievers, characters, and allegorical beings engage in ambiguous posing, with unladylike stares challenging stereotypes while creating expectations for an empowered world based on equality.

**Sadie Lee** is flirting with notions of physical beauty, femininity, and exclusion, her paintings considering whether masculinity and femininity are constructed identities created and reinforced through the use of makeup, costume, and body language. Using painting as an act of control **Celia Mora** explores bodily imagery showcasing performative poses where the role of the muse is inverted. Displaying the same intimacy with figures lying in their personal space while invoking feelings of both isolation and intrusion, **Elizabeth Dimitroff** presents the body in an otherwise barren space, while **Abigail Norris** emphasizes the context of the female body as a creative force within the society. She disrupts the narrative of everyday human conventions whilst exploring the cyclical nature of existence in relation to 'other' human and nonhuman beings.





*Sandy Powell Done Up I*, 2021  
Oil on canvas, 122x91.45cm

10,000  
GBP  
or 1000 x 10 months

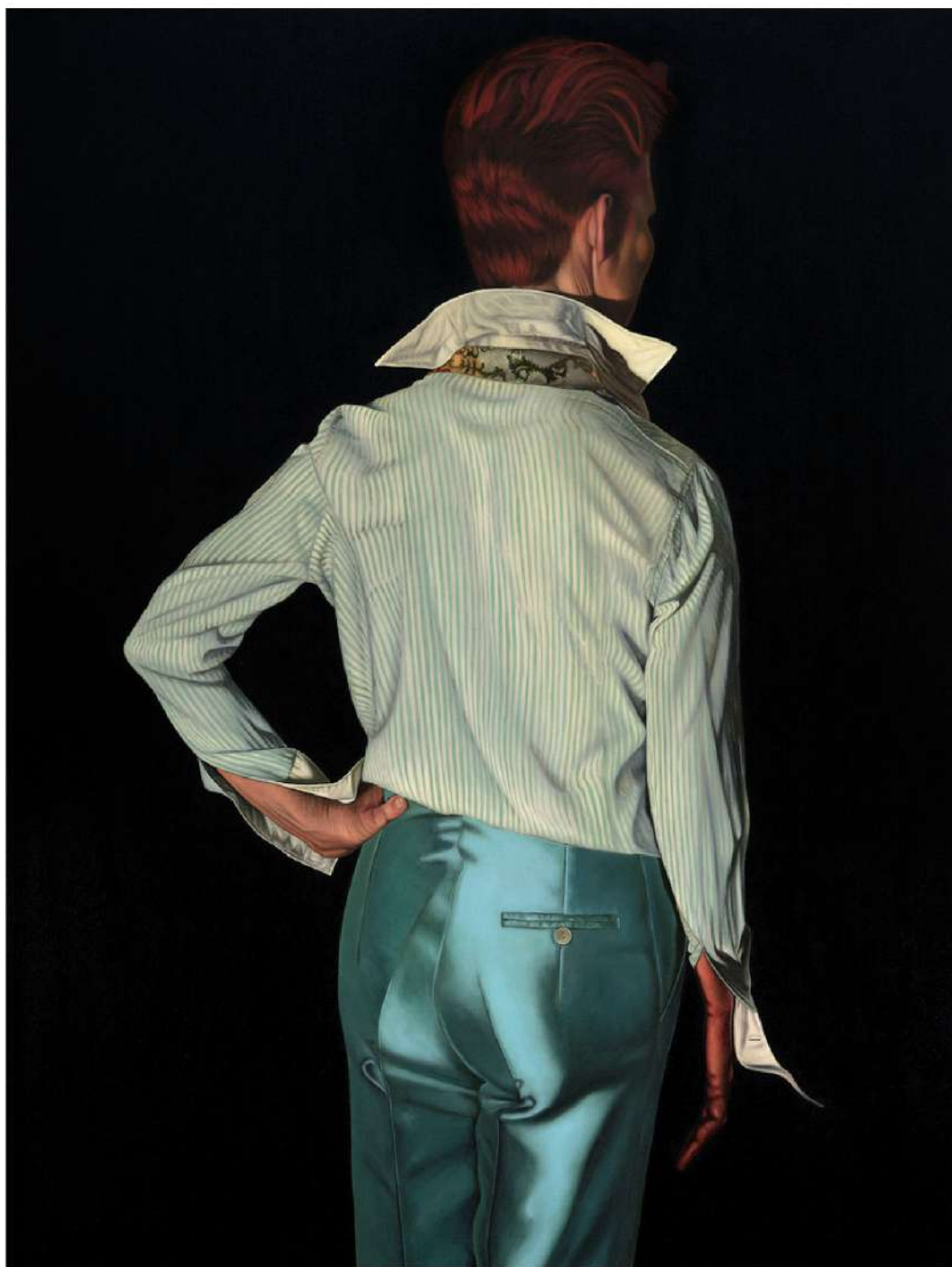
## Sadie Lee

Sadie Lee's imaginative paintings were first brought to the wider public attention when her double portrait 'ERECT' was selected for exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in 1992. The image - two severe looking women sitting with arms interlocked glaring back at the viewer - was produced as a print to advertise the annual BP Award, within weeks 5,000 copies of the poster had completely sold out. As well as showing almost annually at the National Portrait Gallery, Sadie has had several one woman shows nationally and abroad. These include 'Venus Envy' at Manchester City Art Gallery and 'A Dying Art' - Ladies of the Burlesque' at the National Portrait Gallery (this was the result of winning the BP travel award and toured the UK for a year - see photos above). Sadie also had an exhibition entitled 'Don't Look' at the Gallery of Modern Art, Slovenia when she was selected as British Representative in the international contemporary art festival.



*Sandy Powell Done Up II*, 2021  
Oil on canvas, 122x91.45cm

10,000  
GBP  
or £1000 x 10 months



*Sandy Powell Undone I*, 2021  
Oil on canvas, 122x91.45cm

10,000  
GBP  
or £1000 x 10 months





*Sandy Powell Undone II*, 2021  
Oil on canvas, 122x91.45cm

10,000  
GBP  
or £1000 x 10 months



*Stav Bee*, 2011  
Oil on canvas, 101.6x76.2cm

5000  
GBP  
or 500 x 10 months

Anderrida Shurville, 2011  
Oil on canvas, 101.6x76.2cm

5000  
GBP  
or 500 x 10 months





Celia Mora

I am interested in the depiction of the human figure. I want to achieve a sense of presence and self awareness in my figures. I aim to make them exist within the canvas frame but also to connect with us through a stare or a subtle gaze. I have always enjoyed how theatre makes us believe we are witnessing a parallel reality when we are actually fully aware we share the same physical space and time with the actors. Breaking the fourth wall is an almost magical event, when the illusion is briefly broken in front of us. I would like to exercise that power in my paintings. To create the expectation of an alternative world that can dangerously address us through a single painted stare. This intrusion, goes for me in both ways. On one hand, I push the painting to compel a viewer to feel confronted by an other. On the other hand, I want to intrude into my subject's space by displaying their intimacy. I find those moments of vulnerability when a person behaves without the control of being 'seen' the most interesting ones to observe. In this sense, I take advantage of the trust and connection I have with my models to interfere, manipulate and control the chosen display of their bodies. Painting is for me and act of control. A place where I can finally be fully in charge without the constraints that my daily life entails. I just paint people I am emotionally attached with. I feel in my paintings I am somehow involved in a game shifting between control and love. Currently, I use my partner as a subject. I play with his image exploring our genre dynamics through performative poses, raw and playful, where the historical roles as men and women--the painter and his muse--are inverted.

*Stay Still She Said*, 2021  
Oil on canvas, 110x90cm

3000  
GBP  
or 300 x 10 months





*Make A Headstand She Said*, 2021  
Oil on canvas, 180x110cm

6000  
GBP  
or 600 x 10 months





Untitled, 2021  
Oil on canvas,  
50x40cm

£800  
or 80 x 10 months

## Elizabeth Dimitroff

Elizabeth Dimitroff is a London-based artist who is currently completing an MA at the Royal College of Art. She earned her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in 2017 and has exhibited work in exhibitions across Europe and the United States. Her work is currently exhibiting in *Unladylike* at D Contemporary in Mayfair, London. Elizabeth is the co-founder of the newsletter, *God Save the Scene*, a digital platform to profile the emerging talent across London's art scene.



Morning Light, 2023  
130cm x 55cm  
Oil on linen  
4600 GBP  
or 460 x 10 months



*Place of Memory,*  
2022  
34cm x 27cm  
Oil on linen  
2600 GBP  
or 260 x 10 months



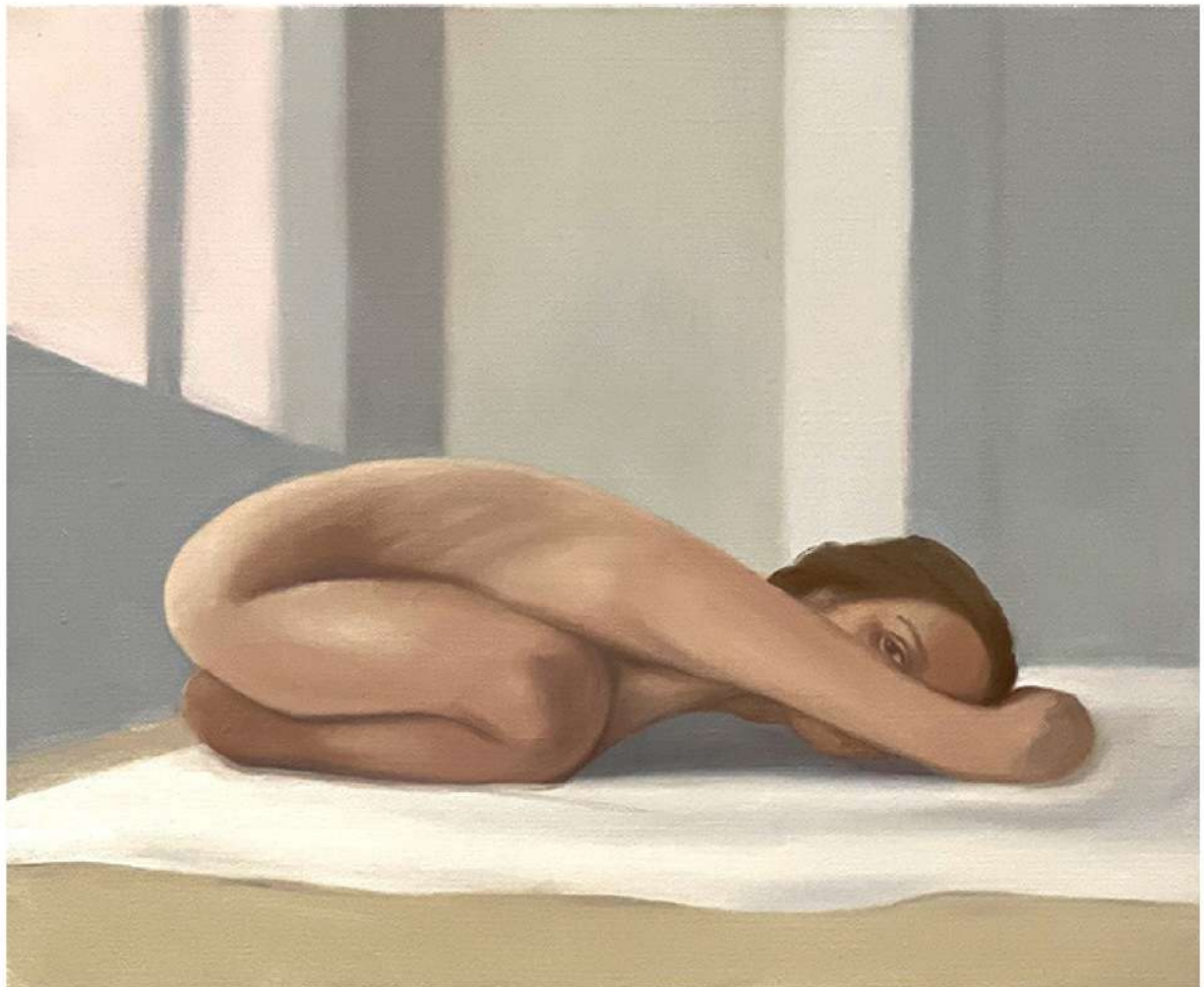


*Curled Up I*, 2022  
74cm x 63cm  
Oil on linen

£3400  
or 340 x 10 months

Elizabeth Dimitroff  
*Curled Up II*, 2022  
46cm x 56cm  
Oil On Linen

£3000  
or 300 x 10 months





*Warmed Up*  
2022  
39cm x 46cm  
Oil on canvas  
2250 GBP  
or 2250 x 10 months



Abigail Norris

My work is concerned with the nature of connectedness, the fact of being or feeling physically, emotionally, or spiritually connected to 'others'. Addressing the colonisation of indigenous belief systems and the growing disconnect between humans, animals and plants due to hierarchical structures such as the Great Chain of Being. My work explores the absence of the voice of femaleness and the presence of 'haunting' memories within western culture as a territory in its own right, a terrain known within my work as The Nightside Garden.

Within The Nightside Garden, the body becomes a site of transgression between sculpture and skin. Reality and myth coexist through embryonic and biomorphic structures and large-scale creatures. Uncanny beasts of irregular scale lay abandoned yet seemingly potent with life force. Hybrid and figurative sculptures with musculoskeletal armatures metamorphose between plants, animals, and humans, rekindling a deep-rooted memory of abject embodiment.

I view the art of making as a defiant act of care and repair, drawing attention to subjects who have transformed into objects through the mechanisms of capitalism. Basic construction techniques such as stitching, binding and moulding highlight a non-hierarchical approach and empower what was previously seen as 'women's work'. Using various constituents such as tights, I am emphasising the context of the female body as a creative force within the materiality of the sculptures and society.

My work moves fluidly between surrealism, social sculpture, and abject art. It sets out to disrupt the narrative of everyday human conventions whilst exploring the cyclical nature of existence in relation to 'other' human and non-human beings.



Abigail Norris

Wyrd Sister, Betwixt Me and Her

40 X 300 X 60 cm

Materials: Reclaimed vintage rabbit fur coats,  
mixed media

2020-21

P.O.A

Abigail Norris  
Allegiance  
180 X 45 X 20 cms  
Mixed media and wadding.  
2022  
£1,344  
or 134 x 10 Months





Abigail Norris

Amphorae

3 X (130 X 75 X 50cms)

Mixed media and wadding.

Year: 2022

£3,780

or 378 x 10 months





Abigail Norris  
Ald Fruyte (part of Still Life  
Installation)  
2023  
Mixed media  
35x38x38

£2,016  
Or 201 x 10 months



CONTEMPORARY

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