

## Pop up exhibition of LA GALERIE LONDON

### GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

#### Group show

22<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012

**The Hollywood Gallery, 12 Hollywood Road, London SW10 9HY** (*Just Fulham Road*)

Exhibition organised and curated by Karine Giannamore / La Galerie London

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**Opening times: week days 12-6pm / Saturday 11-5pm / Sunday 11-4pm**

2012 punctuates the remarkable 60<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's reign. This milestone is significant not only for British citizens but also for foreign residents of England.

The Queen's image is still found on the British currency – unlike other European countries who over time have distanced themselves from their historical heritage with the establishment of the euro. Currency has always set a nationalist tone with its projection of a unique identity and pride.

Seeing the Queen's portrait on bills and coins everyday is not an artless message. Rather the subliminal identification with the Queen includes the character of stability, service and historical depth. The queen has survived and adapted to so many significant social, cultural and historical events through the 20<sup>th</sup> and now the 21<sup>st</sup> century while still maintaining the symbolism of everlasting (*semper eadem*) strength, nobility and humility in the service to her country. Her image represents a powerful but quiet force, and pride of England and has become a true icon.

Hence, it is no surprise that Queen Elizabeth II inspires so many artists around the world – painters, photographers and sculptors. This group exhibition will no doubt be one of many commemorative events to celebrate the reign of this unique and exceptional woman.

To celebrate the special date of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, **La Galerie London** has commissioned new works inspired by her image, her life or symbolic and royal objects. The artists express their fascination with the monarch, her appearance, her stature and how elements taken from her surroundings influence our perception of her world and often create everlasting iconic images.

#### Artists exhibited:

**Nicolas Kuligowski** usually works around the image of objects and more specifically power objects. His work has a double edge. One notices the vibrancy of the paintings, the colourful and flamboyant patchworks, the efficient brushstrokes done with large brushes. Yet on closer inspection, the artwork becomes more striking; the paintings are about objects - not a still life but one object solely taking over the whole space of the canvas. The object takes centre stage. Beneath its vivid aspect, Nicolas Kuligowski interrogates the power of representation and the blunt impact of the image. In this exhibition the artist has chosen to represent probably the most emblematic and symbolic objects related to the monarchy: the Crown and the Royal Carriage. The sinuous, feminine and almost baroque lines will be the perfect outlet for Kuligowski's grand brushstrokes and inspired expression. Nicolas Kuligowski is a Parisian artist and a Graduate from École des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

**Eva Walova-Lemaire** also works with the concept of power, but in women... Her works often show fascinating women, artists, actresses, dancers, swimmers, singers. In any case, they are always in action, caught in the glimpse of their glamorous presence, the wind in their hair, the movement in their often elegant, feminine and alluring outfit. Eva Walova-Lemaire will focus on the Queen; the woman. Facing a crowd, waving, honouring her duties as the first woman in the country: her presence will exude femininity, power and elegance. Eva Walova-Lemaire's work reminds us of the paintings of the German expressionists: strong outlines, spontaneity, dynamic brushstrokes and above all colours. She lives in Paris and is a Graduate from École des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

**Helen O'Keefe** is another artist whose works are dominated by colour. Originally from Australia and based in London for many years, Helen O'Keefe originally worked with painting silk fabrics for designer collections (Fortnum and Mason, Harrods), painting murals and was commissioned to paint both "themed" shop windows - many for The Cross in London - and also pictures. The artwork presented here in the exhibition is part of her new and original method of painting which she recently developed by painting on glass. This has led to intriguing and absorbing possibilities, and seems to reflect the kaleidoscopic elements in life. Following this idea, Helen O'Keefe will present a unique work which celebrates the vibrant and unique life of the monarch with elements of British society and its history as a background. This is a perfect Diamond Jubilee artwork.

**Richard Zarzi** is also drawn to icons. Based in the South of France in Cannes and trained in the "Industry de Luxe", he is drawn to the status and the impact of celebrities in society. His portraits, a combination of pop art and art déco, accentuate this influence while trying to criticize the celebration of ephemeral fame. However, as in pop art, his work is seductive and addictive: ultimate portraits of desired personalities, we want to own them. The Queen plays a different part. Richard Zarzi focuses on the image which has become an icon. He will show two portraits of the Queen: one young, modern and timeless; the other one classic and reflecting upon her destiny. Also, a Coat of Arms, the ultimate symbol of the perpetual monarchy.

**Nancy Barwell's** main obsession lies with the representation of Shadows in photography. Here, the artist presents a nearly abstract and poetic version of the "monarchy": photos of movement, curves and elegance found in the pleats of royal statues' clothes. Here, the focus will be on the fastuous and luxurious dresses, and coats the kings and queens wear during important ceremonies. A glorious hem, a luxurious drape and the detailed gathering of the dress speak more in their simplicity about the impact of royal attire than complicated photographs. Nancy Barwell is a French artist and psychoanalyst. She lives and works in Paris.

**Sonia Fitoussi** is a French photographer living in London. She will display a sample of her beautiful and sometimes humouristic photographs, giving a very personal view of England, London, the Queen and various symbols in our daily life.

**For further information on the artists, please visit the website:**

**[www.lagalerielondon.co.uk](http://www.lagalerielondon.co.uk)**