

RACHEL GADSDEN



As part of GV Art's *Theatre of the Mind* season in conjunction with Elastic Theatre's new multi-media work, *Julius*

24 August – 29 September 2012

Private View Wednesday 22 August 2012

GV Art Gallery, 49 Chiltern Street, Marylebone, London W1U 6LY

Highlight Events

Practical workshop: Voice/Art Experiments - Thursday 6 September, 6:30pm

An Evening with Rachel Gadsden - Wednesday 12 September, 6.30pm



Rachel Gadsden, *Dancing With Angels* mixed media on canvas, 2005

Rachel Gadsden trained as an actor before studying for a BA and MA in Fine Art; and in some senses still draws upon those early acquired theatrical and physical skills in her career as a visual artist. Expressionistic in approach, Gadsden creates vibrant, energetic, dramatic artworks incorporating assemblage, painting, performance and film in developing a cross-cultural visual language and dialogue.

Gadsden's work explores the physical, historical and personal experience that forms the human condition. In 2007 she was appointed the first contemporary artist in Residence at Hampton Court Palace for Historic Royal Palaces. Other site-specific commissions have taken her to a colliery in South Wales, the Houses of Parliament for a 2009 General Election Commission, Khayelitsha Township in South Africa; and also to the now derelict Cane Hill and North Wales Asylum hospitals, where the researched experiences of patients and staff became the subject of the work – including the performance *Loanda Matilda Wall*, an exploration of the consciousness of a patient of the same name who was temporarily admitted to the hospital in 1876.

The histories of all such places, serve for Gadsden as a metaphor for the physical and psychological nature of what it is to be human. Aesthetically rich and layered, the work shown in GV Art's exhibition reveals the breadth and energy of Gadsden's artistic output to date, addressing notions of fragility, survival and hope.

A multi-award winning artist, Gadsden was recently awarded an International Unlimited London 2012 Commission for Unlimited Global Alchemy and is also leading a spectacular outdoor visual art/dance/film performance commission for the London 2012 Paralympics Torch Relay.

Exhibition Related Events

Practical workshop: Voice/Art Experiments – Thursday 6 September, 6:30pm.

International soprano Maya Sapone and Artistic Director Jacek Ludwig Scarso will present one of Elastic Theatre's acclaimed workshops on vocal performance, inspired by the work of Rachel Gadsden exhibited at GV Art. Rachel Gadsden in turn will capture the energy of the evening in a large scale painting.

An Evening with Rachel Gadsden – Wednesday 12 September, 6.30pm

In this special event Rachel will introduce the exhibition and take visitors on a private tour elaborating upon the themes and inspirations for her work. This is a unique opportunity to meet Rachel and learn about her creative practice.

For press enquiries and images contact:

GV Art on T : 020 8408 9800 | E : media@gvart.co.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Rachel Gadsden is a contemporary British artist. She gained her BA degree in Painting from Wimbledon School of Art in 1998 and her MA degree in Fine Art from City and Guilds of London Art School in 2001. Gadsden traverses various media from drawing and painting to performance and workshops. She has won a variety of awards including the Artsadmin Digital Media Bursary in 2005 and the Most Popular Painting Prize, Hunting Art Prize, in 2003 at the Royal College of Art, London.

GV Art is a contemporary art gallery which aims to explore and acknowledge the inter-relationship between art and science, and how the areas cross over and inform one another. The gallery produces exhibitions and events that create a dialogue focused on how modern man interprets and understands the advances in both areas and how an overlap in the technological and the creative, the medical and the historical are paving the way for new aesthetic sensibilities to develop.

"GV Art is fast becoming a central venue for the meeting of art and science." Philip Ball, *Chemistry World*, October 2011

VISITOR INFORMATION

GV Art, 49 Chiltern Street
London W1U 6LY
nearest tube Baker Street
T : 020 8408 9800
E : info@gvart.co.uk
W : www.gvart.co.uk

GALLERY OPENING HOURS

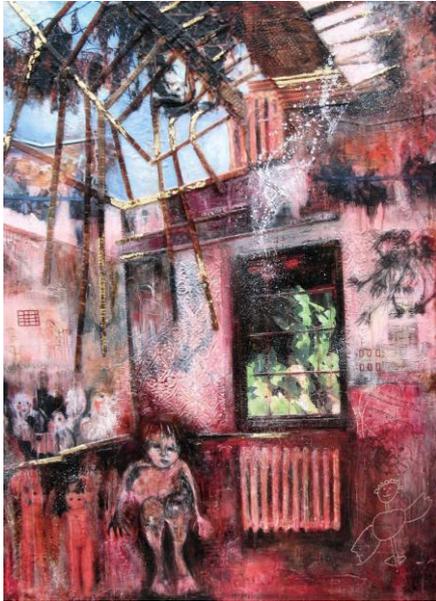
Tuesday to Friday 11am – 6pm,
Saturdays 11am – 4pm
or by appointment.
Admission Free



RACHEL GADSDEN



Images



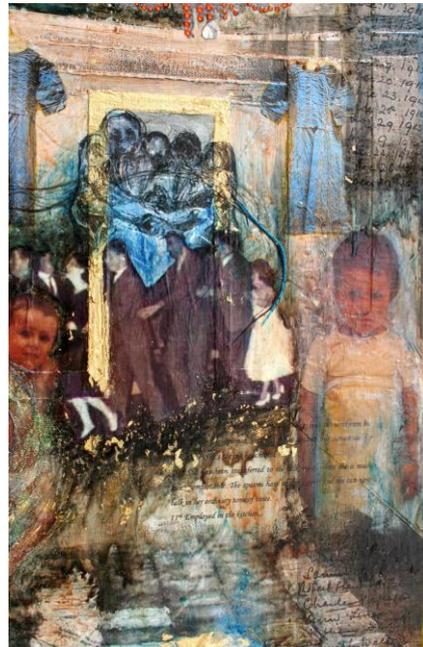
Nothing but Blue Skies, mixed media on canvas, 2005



Theatre, pencil on paper, 2011



Beyond the Veil, mixed media on paper, 2011



Dancing with Angels (detail), mixed media on canvas, 2005

Images © Rachel Gadsden, photography by Rachel Gadsden, courtesy of GV Art

