

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLARE WOODS: *BETWEEN THESE WORDS*



16 SEPTEMBER – 29 OCTOBER 2022
PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 4–8PM
SIMON LEE GALLERY, HONG KONG

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present *Between These Words*, an exhibition of new works by Clare Woods. For the artist's second solo show in Hong Kong and sixth exhibition with the gallery, Woods presents a series of paintings that explore the polarity of opposites and embrace desire as the ultimate space of the expression of the human condition.

The artist's background in sculpture has enabled large, gestural brushstrokes to sculpt objects in paint. Woods' still life and figurative paintings are unmistakably rooted in real space and time but abstracted in their simultaneous deconstruction and reconstruction of form by obscuring a clear view of what is presented by defamiliarising and estranging it through emotive mark making.

Woods' varied subject matter creates a disparate connection between the paintings, enhanced by her grounding of the work in the polarity of opposites. Her images have been increasingly preoccupied with conveying the human form and perhaps this is why the figure is omnipresent in these paintings. In her work the artist blurs the lines of representation through both technique and metaphorical subjects which she compounds in the ambiguity of her titles.

Woods' approach to still life is exemplified in *Silent Breakdown* as she parallels the uniquely powerful motif between the human body and flowers, through their similar condition of concurrent life and slow death. Petals have fallen and stems are beginning to wilt, magnifying the close proximity between vitality and decay and questioning if there is any true comfort to be found in the familiar and is the only illusion of a constant stability the sky?

Between These Words is an exhibition about the human condition and what we are capable of. Much of Woods' recent practice is concerned with fragility and vulnerability as the artist asks us to look between imagery and representation in search for hidden notions beneath the ambiguous surface.

12 BERKELEY STREET
LONDON W1J 8DT
T +44 (0) 20 7491 0100
F +44 (0) 20 7491 0200
INFO@SIMONLEEGALLERY.COM

SIMON LEE GALLERY LTD
REGISTERED IN ENGLAND 4316341
GB 788 061 692

NOTES TO EDITORS**About Clare Woods**

Clare Woods RA was born in Southampton in 1972 and lives and works in Herefordshire, UK. In 2022, Woods was elected a Royal Academician, she received her MA from Goldsmith's College, London and her BA from Bath College of Art, Bath. Woods' work has been shown extensively internationally and has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions and projects, including Serlachius Museum, Mänttä, Finland (2022); Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2022); Simon Lee Gallery, New York, NY (2019), Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, UK (2018); Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee, UK (2017); Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, UK (2016); Oriel Davies Gallery, Wales, UK (2014), which travelled to Oriel-y-Parc, Wales, UK (2015) and Oriel Plas Glyn-y-Weddw, Wales, UK (2014); The New Art Centre, Salisbury, UK (2013); Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton, UK (2012); The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK (2011) and The Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK (2006). She has been included in major group exhibitions at venues including Pier Art Centre, Stromness, UK (2016); The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK (2014); The National Museum Wales, Wales, UK (2014); ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, Denmark (2014); Tate St Ives, St Ives, UK (2009) and Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY (2009). Her work is housed in major public and private collections including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, Denmark and Arts Council Collection and British Council, London, UK. She has a permanent commission at the River Bend in Dallas, TX. Later in 2022, the artist will present a solo exhibition at Simon Lee Gallery, Hong Kong.

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Clare Woods, *Silent Breakdown*, 2022, Oil on aluminium, 100 x 150 cm (39 3/8 x 59 1/8 in.) Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

For further press information, images and requests please contact Zoe Gorell: zoe@simonleegallery.com / +44 (0) 207 491 0100.

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