

Chantal Joffe: *The Eel*

Exhibition 5 September–21 October 2023

Victoria Miro Venice, Il Capricorno, San Marco 1994, 30124 Venice, Italy



Works in progress, Venice, August 2023
All works © Chantal Joffe
Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro
Photo: Matteo Losurdo

Victoria Miro is delighted to present *The Eel*, an exhibition of new paintings by Chantal Joffe completed this summer during a residency with the gallery in Venice.

Defined by its clarity, honesty and empathy, Chantal Joffe's art is attuned to our awareness as both observers and observed beings, and is questioning, complex and emotionally rich. Over the summer, the artist has worked in the gallery's studio in Venice, completing paintings – self-portraits; paintings of her daughter, Esme; still lifes – against the backdrop of the city at its high-season peak, a place of magnificence, stimulation, pleasure, excess and decay, endlessly toppling into one another.

The exhibition is accompanied by *The Spoils*, a new essay by Olivia Laing, who writes, 'How can you paint all this? Put your body in the middle of it and hope to catch a flash as something vanishes or changes state. The only way to walk in the crowd is to submit to its sleepwalker pace, and maybe these pictures are a little like that. Lido, vaporetto, tramezzini on a plate. Everything is gorgeous, everything contains its secret evidence of death.'

About the artist

Born in 1969, Chantal Joffe lives and works in London. She holds an MA from the Royal College of Art and was awarded the Royal Academy Wollaston Prize in 2006. Joffe has exhibited nationally and internationally at venues including The Foundling Museum, London, UK (2023, 2020); The Modern, Fort Worth, Texas, USA (2022); Koohouse Museum, Yangpyong, Korea (2022); The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2021); Arnolfini, Bristol, UK (2020); Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK (2019); Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK (2018); The Lowry, Salford, UK (2018); Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK (2018, 2017); National Museum of Iceland, Reykjavík (2016); National Portrait Gallery, London, UK (2015); Jewish Museum, New York, USA (2015); Jerwood Gallery, Hastings, UK (2015); Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2014–2015); Saatchi Gallery, London, UK (2013–2014); MODEM, Hungary (2012); Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK (2011); Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York, USA (2009); MIMA Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, UK (2007); Galleri KB, Oslo, Norway (2005) and Bloomberg Space, London, UK (2004).

Her work is in numerous institutional and private collections, including the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, USA; Detroit Institute of Arts, USA; National Portrait Gallery, London, UK; and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA.

In October 2023, work by the artist will feature in the group exhibition *Real Families: Stories of Change* at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (6 October 2023–7 January 2024).

Joffe has created a major public work for the Elizabeth line in London titled *A Sunday Afternoon in Whitechapel*, on view at Whitechapel Elizabeth line station.

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