

Timothy Taylor Gallery

Fiona Rae

22 April - 30 May 2015

Timothy Taylor Gallery is delighted to announce its fourth solo exhibition by British artist Fiona Rae.

This new series of greyscale paintings from 2014–2015 marks an exciting and significant development in Rae's practice. Each painting's composition predicates a notional figure, whose existence is simultaneously manifested and denied in a theatre of direct performative mark-making. These are abstract compositions teetering on the edge of figuration, expressively rendered in black, white and tones of grey. Within this rigorous and strategic system of hue reduction and subtle balancing of tonal relationships, Rae has nevertheless created an intensely colourful and dynamic suite of paintings that embody both the tropes of high modernist idealism and the distanced manipulations of a Photoshop-inflected present.

Alongside these paintings, a series of small-scale charcoal drawings will be shown – a new expressive medium for the artist – and one upon which her wit and restless invention are brought dramatically to bear. Inspired by a variety of sources from Chen Rong's thirteenth-century *Nine Dragons* to Robert Rauschenberg's *Erased de Kooning Drawing* (1953), Rae challenged herself to find a way of representing the figure that synthesised its historical traditions with the contemporary existential experience of self:

I wanted to be de Kooning making a Woman drawing or painting, and at the same time I wanted to be Rauschenberg erasing it. That seemed to me to be the perfect answer to the problem of allowing oneself to make a drawing of a figure without disappearing into the past. Doing it and undoing it until some kind of image just about arrives. With the paintings, I had the same notion of erasure, while at the same time both longing to make a figure appear and wishing to remain in the field of abstraction.

(Fiona Rae in conversation with Martin Herbert, 2015)

Fiona Rae graduated from Goldsmiths College, London in 1987; took part in the ground-breaking exhibition *Freeze* in London's Docklands in 1988 and was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1991. Over the last 25 years, Rae's work has been included in numerous exhibitions in museums, public institutions and galleries worldwide. Group exhibitions include *Hybrids*, Tate Liverpool, UK (2001); *Painting Pictures*, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (2003); *Fiction@Love*, Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art, China and Singapore Art Museum (2006); *Pictograms*, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Germany (2006); *Classified*, Tate Britain, London, UK (2009). Solo exhibitions include Carré d'Art, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Nîmes, France (2002–2003); Leeds Art Gallery, UK; The New Art Gallery Walsall, UK; Towner, Eastbourne, UK (2012–2013); and *Painter, Painter: Dan Perfect, Fiona Rae*, Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery, UK and Southampton City Art Gallery, UK (2014).

Fiona Rae's work is represented in public and private collections internationally, including Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France; Fundació "la Caixa", Barcelona, Spain; Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA; Mudam Luxembourg; Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Tate Collection, UK.

Rae was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2002); served as a Tate Artist Trustee (2005–2009); and was appointed Professor of Painting at the Royal Academy Schools, London (2011).

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue featuring a conversation between Martin Herbert and Fiona Rae.

Paintings

Oil and acrylic on canvas
72 x 51 in. / 183 x 129.5 cm

1.
Figure 1m, 2014
T009953

2.
Figure 1o, 2015
T009955

3.
Figure 1j, 2014
T009920

4.
Figure 1f, 2014
T009916

5.
Figure 1p, 2015
T009996

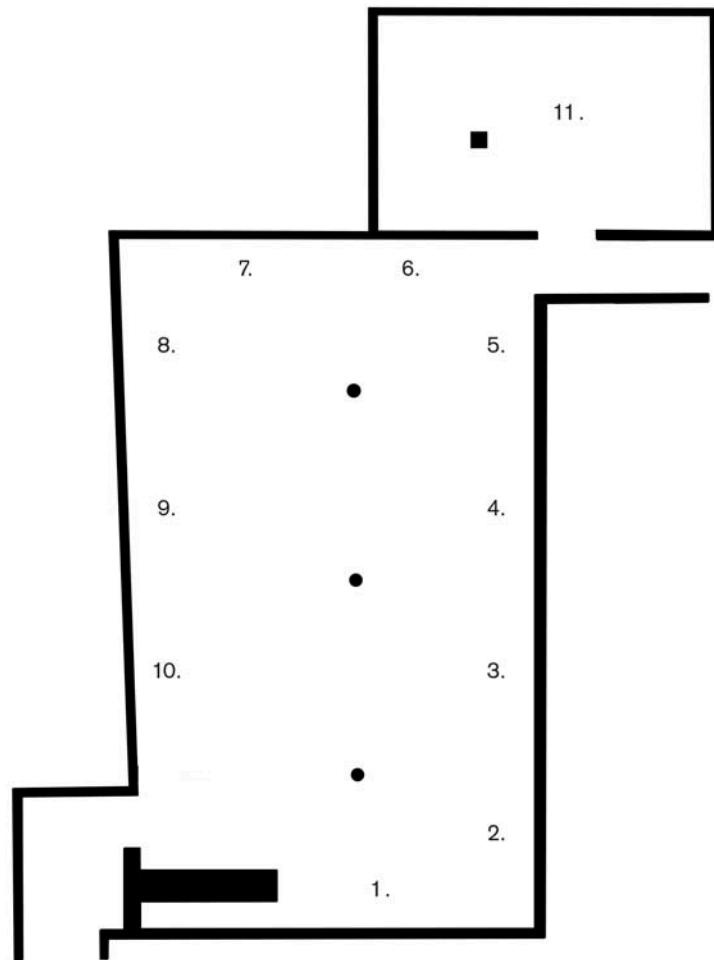
6.
Figure 1g, 2014
T009917

7.
Figure 1h, 2014
T009918

8.
Figure 1k, 2014
T009923

9.
Figure 1l, 2014
T009924

10.
Figure 1n, 2015
T009954



11. Drawings (left-right)

Charcoal on watercolour paper
11 ³/₄ x 8 ¹/₃ in. / 29.7 x 21cm

Drawing (figure 5a), 2014
T0010005

Drawing (figure 5b), 2014
T0010006

Drawing (figure 5c), 2014
T0010007

Drawing (figure 5d), 2014
T0010008

Drawing (figure 5e), 2014
T0010009

Drawing (figure 5f), 2014
T0010010

Drawing (figure 5g), 2014
T0010011

Drawing (figure 5h), 2014
T0010012

Drawing (figure 5i), 2014
T0010013