

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CLARE WOODS: PASSWORD REVOLT**



**16 JANUARY – 2 MARCH 2019**  
**PRIVATE VIEW: WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY, 6 – 8PM**  
**SIMON LEE GALLERY, NEW YORK**

Simon Lee Gallery, New York, is pleased to present *Password Revolt*, a solo exhibition of new works by British artist Clare Woods. This show marks Woods's first solo exhibition in New York since 2002 and represents a continuation of the themes addressed in her first exhibition, *Rehumanizing*, at Simon Lee Gallery, Hong Kong, in 2018.

Over the course of a career spanning more than twenty years Woods has developed a unique painterly language that is concerned by the sculpting of an image in two dimensions. Her early practice as a sculptor continues to inform her exploration of physical form via the materiality of paint. A preoccupation with large-scale landscape painting has given way in recent years to a focus on the human figure rendered in oil paints, as opposed to the enamel originally used. The unpredictability of viscous oil on aluminum echoes the corporeality of her subject matter, helping the artist to engage with her medium on a physical level, while allowing her to confront, almost tangibly, the emotional range of her source material.

Woods derives inspiration from found photographic sources such as newspaper clippings, magazines, and other diverse sources of visual ephemera that depict unsettling, disturbing and often transgressive imagery. An astute chronicler of personal and historical trauma, she attempts in her painting to process the effects of grief, disappointment and cruelty even as it cryptically depicts those subjects. Straddling abstraction and figuration, lived experience and cultural memory, these paintings point to a more emotive mode of representation. Acute psychological states are portrayed through the nuances of Woods's gestural approach to painting, which defamiliarizes the familiar and expresses strangeness through expansive, vigorous brushwork, compositional distortion and abstract color.

In this recent body of work Woods confronts the experience of living and the ways in which we cope with the adversities of the human condition. The paintings offer an open-ended view of social and political histories marked by a fluctuating approach to abstraction and figuration. Opening up the space between photographic portrayal and individual sensation and memory, Woods creates a new type of representation that holds the tension between what she sees and experiences in the act of mark-making. Shifts in scale emphasize human presence, pulling the viewer backwards and forwards and helping them to engage with the static object. Woods's enigmatic imagery invites an interrogation of hierarchies of authenticity and questions what it means to be human in an ever evolving political and technological time.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Clare Woods**

Clare Woods was born in Southampton in 1972 and lives and works in Herefordshire, UK. 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 Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, UK (2018); Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee, UK (2017); Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, UK (2016); Oriel Davies Gallery, Wales (2014), which travelled to Oriel-y-Parc, Wales (2015) and Oriel Plas Glyn-y-Weddw, Wales (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) and Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY (2009). Her work is in major 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.

**About Simon Lee Gallery**

Founded in Mayfair, London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices range 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, helping to introduce its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme. In 2014, Simon Lee Gallery opened an office and private viewing space. In 2017, the New York space was re-launched with an independent year-round programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing the work of emerging and established artists in dynamic group and solo exhibitions.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery  
[www.simonleegallery.com](http://www.simonleegallery.com)

Image: Clare Woods, *Rest Cure*, 2018. Oil on aluminium, 200 x 150 cm (78 3/4 x 59 1/8 in.) Courtesy the artist and Simon Lee Gallery, London, New York.

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