

PICTORUM  
GALLERY

# DREAM OF THE MOTHER LANGUAGE

A Solo Presentation by Alicia Radage

Having received DYCP funding earlier in 2023, Dream of the Mother Language shines a light on the importance of furthering feminist artistic practices, and aims to showcase the vitality and vulnerability of the artist's practice.

Pictorum Gallery is delighted to present Dream of the Mother Language, a solo exhibition by multidisciplinary visual artist Alicia Radage (she/they). This exhibition spans ten years of the artists' career, showcasing both archival and new work. As a trained Somatic Shamanic Practitioner, Alicia looks to ancient ways of connecting to and receiving wisdom from the 'more than human'. In this way, she foregrounds her spiritual practice throughout her artistic work, and places all she creates within a powerful feminist framework.

Through Dream of the Mother Language, Alicia transforms the gallery space into a womb-like world of tongues, breasts, stomachs and human-non-human hybrids. Engulfing the gallery in her inner-psyche, Radage showcases performance, hand-beaten copper sculptures; archival photography; soundscapes; and menstrual blood paintings, among other works. Despite the vastness of materials used, there is a singular thread that ties these together: female resilience.

Alicia's three hand-beaten copper breastplates dominate the gallery space. Just over life-size, these impressive sculptures reflect upon the relationship between women's bodies, (re)productivity, war, protection, and patriarchy. Inspired by the mythical Viking Shield-Maidens, these armoured bodies are at once exposed, with their swollen bellies and shining nipples, and resilient, in thanks due to the choice of material and scale.

Alicia's performance work has channelled their relationship as a female body to their environment, whether that be rural, urban, or internal. It has been a vehicle to explore how to process the complications of contemporary life within the vessel of a female queer body. She uses her voice to find interconnection between other bodies, both human and non-human, as well as reaching to the spiritual realm.

Mythological tales of animal-human hybrids has led Radage to become fascinated with animals that are a result of human interference. Considering domesticated animals such as cats, dogs, and sheep, Radage's research has led her to create hybrid sculptures such as Sheep Dreams, a 3D printed sheep/human-finger hybrid sculpture. These works, whilst unnatural in appearance, aim to draw attention to our own perceived superiority as humans. Radage hopes to draw on ancient stories and respect for animals and all we can learn from them to forge a more sustainable future, and 'heal the wounds of human supremacy'.

# *About The Artist*

Alicia Radage has shown their work internationally and has been supported by Arts Council England, The British Council and Shape Arts. A selection of their work is represented by qap.digital. Notable shows and performances include Whitstable Biennale (UK), Venice International Performance Art Week (IT), MAMBO (Bogota, CO), GIANT Gallery (Bournemouth, UK), San Mei Gallery (London, UK), Meno Parkas Gallery (LT) and Parlour Gallery (London, UK). Alicia graduated from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2011 with a Distinction in Advanced Theatre Practice.

## *Q&A Performance Collaborators*

Florence Peake is a London-based artist who has been making solo and group performance works intertwined with an extensive visual art practice since 1995. Presenting work internationally and across the UK in galleries, theatres and the public realm, Peake is known for an approach which is at once sensual and witty, expressive and rigorous, political and intimate.

Peake's work has been presented at Southwark Park Galleries (2023), Hayward Gallery's touring British Art Show 9 (2021) Arsenic theatre and Sudpol theatre in Switzerland (2020), Venice Biennale 2019; CRAC Occitanie, Sète, France (2018), London Contemporary Music Festival, UK (2018), Bosse & Baum, London, UK (2019); De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, UK (2018); Palais De Tokyo, Paris, France (2018) amongst others.

Jasper Llewellyn is an artist, researcher and facilitator, based in London. His practice-as-research is concerned with cross-disciplinary forms of improvised artistic practice and the deployment of these practices as vehicles to explore notions of more-than-human liveliness and affective atmospheres.

Jasper is a founding member, and co-artistic director, of the band caroline. Signed to Rough Trade Records, caroline released their self-titled debut album to critical acclaim in February 2022. The album was included on numerous 'Best of 2022' lists (Pitchfork, NME, The Quietus).

Becca Pelly-Fry is an independent curator, facilitator and cultural consultant based in Folkestone and working collaboratively with a wide range of artists and arts organisations across the UK. She was Director and Curator of Griffin Gallery (2013-2018) and Head Curator for Elephant West (2018-19), before going freelance as an independent curator and consultant in 2019.

Becca is an Associate Consultant for people make it work, Head of Professional Development for ACAVA Studios, a mentor for Arts Emergency and The Launchpad Collective, and a member of the British Art Network, Young Professionals in the Arts, and Association of Women in the Arts. Underpinning all of her work, within the cultural sector and elsewhere, is a commitment to collective care, compassion and social justice.