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s e r e n m o r g a n j o n e s

llygaid hanes / history's eyes

6 september – 5 october 2013

gallery/ten presents the first solo exhibition in wales by aberystwyth-born artist seren morgan jones. jones graduated from central saint martins college of art, london in 2009 and since then has exhibited throughout the uk, having her first london solo show in 2010

llygaid hanes / history's eyes is a collection of 12 new paintings documenting welsh women from the 19th + early 20th centuries. the portraits in *llygaid hanes / history's eyes* depict fake constructs rather than actual bygone figures, but are based on accurate evidence sought through researching historical archives from across wales. traditions such as the personalisation of hats with black straw by female pitface workers, to the pin-up preachers of the era have offered jones' recent work a wealth of inspiration which has its roots firmly embedded in welsh history

in this new body of work, jones places herself in her country's past + attempts to re-write history, offering a new + deserved visual place for welsh women. through creating imagined masterpieces she aims to 'create an image + presence of the welsh woman to counter that of the image so commonly seen in tourist shops, arguably the only common image of women from wales' past'

her already recognisable style of portraiture using elements of classical painterly language, with a subtle contemporary, feminist twist has garnered serious attention, with this exhibition further establishing jones as one of wales' most promising young painters

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cyflwyno gallery/ten arddangosfa unigol gyntaf seren morgan jones yng nghymru. graddiodd jones o goleg celf saint martins, llundain yn 2009 ac ers hynny mae wedi arddangos ledled y d.u, gan gynnal ei sioe unigol gyntaf yn llundain yn 2010

cynhwysa *llygaid hanes / history's eyes* gasgliad o 12 o beintiadau newydd sy'n dogfennu menywod cymreig o'r 19eg + dechrau'r 20fed ganrif. mae'r portreadau yma yn gysyniadau ffug yn hytrach na ffigurau go iawn o'r gorffennol, ond yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth gywir a ddarganfuwyd drwy ymchwilio archifau hanesyddol o bob cwr o gymru. cynigia draddodiadau megis personoli hetiau gwellt du gan wragedd y pyllau glo, i bregethwyr nodedig y cyfnod gyfoeth o ysbrydoliaeth i jones a'i gwaith - a'r ysbrydoliaeth honno â'i gwreiddiau'n gadarn yn hanes cymru

yn y gyfres newydd yma, gosoda jones ei hun yng ngorffennol ei gwlad + ymdrecha i ail-ysgrifennu hanes, gan gynnig lle haeddiannol + gweledol i fenywod cymru. drwy greu campweithiau dychmygol, anela at greu 'delwedd + phresenoldeb y wraig gymreig i wrthweithio y ddelwedd gyffredin a welir mewn siopau twristiaeth - gellir dadlau taw hon yw'r unig ddelwedd gyffredin o fenywod o orffennol cymru'

mae ei harddull - sy'n adnabyddus bellach - o bortreadau sy'n defnyddio arddulliau peintio clasurol gyda nodweddion cyfoes + ffeministaidd cynnil wedi cywain sylw mawr, gyda'r arddangosfa hon yn sefydlu jones ymhellach fel un o beintwyr ifanc mwyaf addawol cymru



pregethwr / preacher

oil + acrylic on canvas 2013 | 100 x 75cm | £3500



rev. griffiths 19th century clergy | photo by john thomas
national library of wales archives



pit face worker
oil + acrylic on linen 2013 | 42 x 30cm | £1750



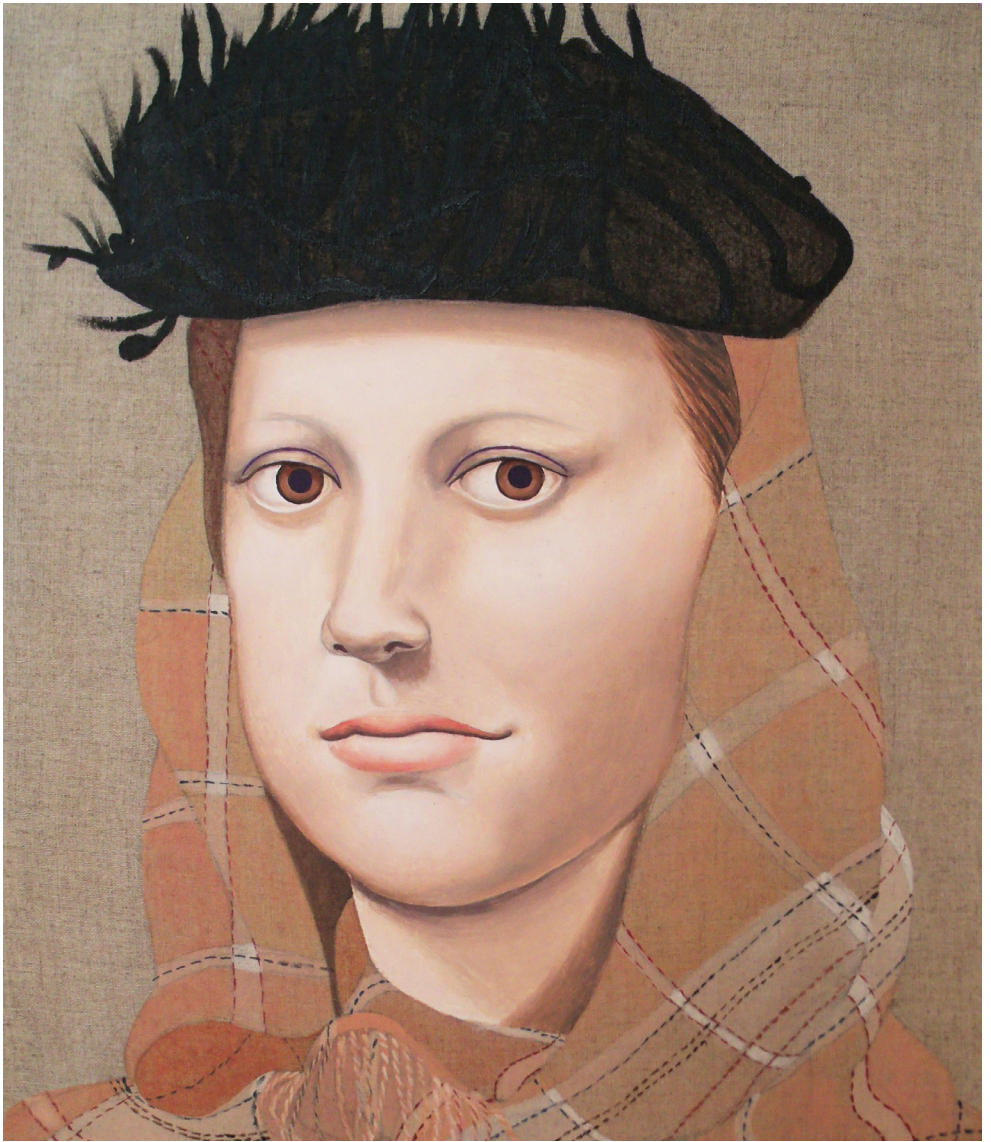
betgwn a het
oil + acrylic on linen 2013 | 42 x 30cm | £1750



tredegar pit face worker 1865
manchester city art gallery archives



tredegar pit workers 1865
manchester city art gallery archives



tredegar
oil + acrylic on linen 2013 | 31 x 26cm | £1450



betgwm
oil + acrylic on linen 2013 | 36 x 31cm | £1650

with this painting, jones pays tribute to the women who worked in the mines, with the painting's title, 'elizabeth prother' chosen from a list of names of women who had died in mining accidents. from looking at images of female pit-workers, jones found it surprising how small, fragile + un-heroic some looked, contrary to the many images + ideals of the male pit-worker so often portrayed by artists. it was important therefore, that some sense of that fragility was captured in the portrait



elizabeth prother
oil + acrylic on canvas 2013 | 170 x 100cm | £4950



19th century flannel betgwn or 'bedgown'
ceredigion museum archives



19th century flannel betgwn or 'bedgown'
ceredigion museum archives

inspired by goya's portrait *the duchess of alba* [1797], this welsh woman displays ownership over her country. her stance is also a symbol of women's contribution to wales' culture, history + landscape



gwład / country

oil + acrylic on canvas 2013 | 170 x 100cm | £4950



cati'n gwau / cati knitting
oil + acrylic on board 2013 | 25 x 19cm | £595



sioned yn nyddu / sioned spinning
oil + acrylic on board 2013 | 25 x 19cm | £595

the titles of 'gwau' + 'nyddu' reference images taken by the famous 19th century welsh photographer john thomas [1838 - 1905]. jones used many of his images in her research + noticed a pattern in some of his female portraits. thomas often posed his subjects knitting, holding tea-cups + at spinning wheels; he also clearly had a handful of outfits at his studio, as the same aprons + blouses are seen worn by several various women. this diptych aims to show how mundane these activities might have been + how women doing them may have felt about these idealised tasks, and through doing this, removes nostalgia



Two elderly women in working clothes, Llanfechell c.1875 | photo by John Thomas
National Library of Wales Archives



photo by john thomas
national library of wales archives



gwyn nicholls [1874 - 1939]
wikipedia

a strong archetype of the welsh man is the rugby player. initially, jones was uncertain if rugby was significant to women of the 19th century but, on further investigation, discovered that the women's rugby union was established in 1881 in the uk. although artistic license has been granted, 'fly-half' is a very potent image in light of women's professional sport + its lack of coverage in the media



fly-half
oil + acrylic on board 2013 | 41 x 30cm | £1750

'jones y paent' is the artist's first self-portrait. many of the old masters painted self-portraits, therefore it's fitting for jones to add her own to the genealogy. the act of painting a self-portrait can often be an arrogant one, so rather than shy away from this, jones decided to embrace that aspect, painting herself in a confident, powerful stance. as an artist, jones has an innate love for painting, with this self-portrait, in part, a homage to that. 'jones y paent' also acts as a public indication of her arrival into wales' art scene + provides a firm declaration that she intends to stay

this painting provided jones with the concept for the exhibition's title, *Ilygaid hanes / history's eyes*. by dressing herself in 19th century clothing, she takes on the persona of a 19th century artist. jones embraces the idea of people in the present engaging with the past, as well as the past actively engaging with the present. with her 19th century self looking over her shoulder, jones places the viewer behind her, as if in her past. this idea of playing with a linear time-line is something often explored in her work



jones y paent
oil + acrylic on canvas 2013 | 170 x 100cm | £4950



seren morgan jones at work
photo courtesy of jonathan lubikowski

'one of the things i wanted to explore in this body of work was the actual clothes worn by the everyday masses. the idea was to take a look at the clothes that inspired what we now recognise as the welsh national dress. i became fascinated by weaving + textile design from the 19th century. i wanted to present the clothes as truthfully as possible as they represent the welsh wool industry, historically seen as the most important + widespread of wales' industries

i also wanted to take the welsh archetypes [which are almost entirely male] + gender-flip them to represent the genuine role women had in those industries + professions'

seren morgan jones | september 2013

s e r e n m o r g a n j o n e s

seren morgan jones was born in 1985 in aberystwyth, wales. after studying fine art foundation at the byam shaw school of art from 2005-06, she graduated with a ba in fine art from central saint martins college of art in london in 2009. women are a central theme in jones' work + she strives to create images using elements of classical painterly language, with a subtle contemporary, feminist twist. she explores classical painting + portraiture for inspiration + guidance when painting character portraits

selected solo + group exhibitions

- 2013 group exhibition, art in action, oxford, england
- 2013 group exhibitions, gallery/ten, cardiff, wales
- 2012 group exhibitions, project/ten, cardiff, wales
- 2011 summer in the city, group exhibition, ben uri gallery, london, england
- 2011 #1 project nim : mass, group exhibition, recession studios, london, england
- 2011 group exhibitions, project/ten, cardiff, wales
- 2010 my women, solo exhibition, salon contemporary, london, england
- 2010 project/ten residency at wales millennium centre, cardiff
- 2010 group exhibitions, project/ten, cardiff, wales
- 2010 best of the uk: 2009, group exhibition, salon contemporary, london, england

s e r e n m o r g a n j o n e s

ganwyd seren morgan jones ym 1985 yn aberystwyth, cymru. ar ôl astudio cwrs sylfaen celfyddyd gain yn ysgol gelf byam shaw o 2005-06, graddiodd gyda ba mewn celfyddyd gain o ysgol gelf central saint martins yn llundain yn 2009. menywod yn thema ganolog gwaith jones a'i nod yw creu delweddau gan ddefnyddio arddulliau peintio clasurol gyda nodweddion cyfoes a ffeministaidd. archwilia bortreadau clasurol am ysbrydoliaeth ac arweiniad pan yn peintio ei phortreadau

arddangosfeydd unigol + grwp dethol

- 2013 arddangosfa gymysg, *art in action*, rhydychen, lloegr
- 2013 arddangosfeydd grwp, gallery/ten, caerdydd, cymru
- 2012 arddangosfeydd grwp, project/ten, caerdydd, cymru
- 2011 haf yn y ddinas, arddangosfa gymysg, oriel ben uri, llundain, lloegr
- 2011 #1 prosiect nim: màs, arddangosfa gymysg, recession studios, llundain, lloegr
- 2011 arddangosfeydd grwp, project/ten, caerdydd, cymru
- 2010 fy merched, arddangosfa unigol, salon contemporary, llundain, lloegr
- 2010 project/ten preswyl yng nghanolfan mileniwm cymru, caerdydd, cymru
- 2010 arddangosfeydd grwp, project/ten, caerdydd, cymru
- 2010 gorau o'r du: 2009, arddangosfa gymysg, salon contemporary, llundain, lloegr

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this catalogue is published on the occasion of the exhibition
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seren morgan jones 'llygaid hanes / history's eyes'

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gallery/ten | cardiff | wales
gallery/ten | caerdydd | cymru

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jonathan lubikowski + family of seren morgan jones

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