

'Mirror Mirror' by Lorena Levi at Paul Stolper Gallery

Opening: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Paul Stolper Gallery is pleased to present 'Mirror Mirror' featuring new paintings by Lorena Levi, opening on Tuesday 17 September, 2024. These paintings explore the darker, often concealed themes within beloved Disney films, challenging the way we interpret and understand familiar narratives through the lens of modern media.

'By watching these films that are intended for young audiences, I have found that they often conceal more complex themes such as isolation, displacement, community, social prejudices, and violence. Through my paintings, I translate their content into works that reflect on their double meanings.' Lorena Levi 2024

Levi's work marries narrative painting with contemporary critique, drawing from her deep engagement with psychoanalytic themes and continued interest in digital culture. In this new series, 'Mirror Mirror', Levi humanises iconic Disney characters, that are often depicted on screen with exaggerated or animalistic features, by rendering them in a more realistic, raw, and emotionally complex light. In her paintings, Levi examines the tension between explicit innocence and the underlying implications of violence, social exclusion, and prejudice that these stories implicitly convey.

'I am painting narrative portraits where these Disney characters are humanised both physically and emotionally.' Levi continues, 'The work examines the darker undertones that the films mask by their guise of cheery innocence. I am particularly interested in how these films imply, as opposed to explicitly portray, violence and how this causes discomfort when watching these scenes today.' Lorena Levi 2024

The artworks will be available to purchase online and at the gallery.

About Lorena Levi

Lorena Levi is a London-based narrative painter whose innovative work has received critical acclaim and international recognition. Her practice merges traditional oil painting with contemporary digital culture, informed by psychoanalytical research and modern media. Levi's work has been profiled by prominent art and culture platforms including Hypebae, Plinth Magazine, Art Plugged, FWORD Magazine, and Why Now World, as well as on Soho Radio. She is also a finalist on the upcoming Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year television program.

A graduate of Edinburgh University with an MA in Fine Art (2021), Levi has garnered several prestigious awards, including The Astaire Prize (2021), the Overall Winner of The Jackson's Painting Prize (2022), and the NHS Lothian Tonic Arts Award (2023).

Her works have been exhibited at notable venues such as Marlborough Gallery, Paul Stolper Gallery, South London Gallery, and the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh. Recent solo shows include 'The In Between' at the Sidings, Waterloo, 'MAXXED' in 2023 as well as 'Blistered' with M&B in Milan Casa MB.

For further information, prices, and interview requests please contact info@paulstolper.com

Gallery opening times:

Monday – Friday 10am - 6pm

Saturday 11am - 6pm