

## Once Upon a Time...

A group exhibition exploring folklore, myths & fairytales

Co-curated by Flora Fairbairn & Katie Heller

23-25 Chiltern Street, London, W1U 7PW

**6 - 25 May 2022**

**Press Preview:** Tuesday 3 May, 10am - 12pm

**Private View:** Thursday 5 May, 6pm - 9pm

**Gallery Hours:** Tues - Sat: 11am - 6pm, Sun: 2pm - 6pm

**Gallery Talk:** Thursday 19 May, 6pm - 8pm

Clover Stroud and Kate Spicer: Elevation of Death and Grief by Magical Thinking

Flora Fairbairn & Co. are thrilled to partner with curator and art advisor Katie Heller on *Once Upon a Time...*, a presentation exploring folklore, myths and fairytales. This group exhibition brings together a wide selection of artists at various stages of their careers to explore the traditions, beliefs, customs, and stories that have shaped our collective cultural histories, and the roles they play today.

Folklore, myths and fairytales examine the light and the dark in human nature. They provide a vessel for our own inventions and our interconnected journeys. As cultural products of the legacy of storytelling, we identify with these narratives and continue to add and refine, elaborating and translating for new audiences. They engage us with lessons in morality and coach us in perseverance. Stories provide comfort,



Christina Forrer, *Untitled (Wolves)*, 2020  
Wool and cotton, 121.9 x 91.4 cm

© Christina Forrer; Courtesy of the artist; Luhring Augustine, New York and Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago. Photo: Joshua White

excitement and humour, as well as a thread that connects each of us through the history of the spoken word.

*Once Upon a Time...* presents a selection of new and existing works, primarily paintings, drawings, photographs, installation and works on paper, that highlight some of the many diverse perspectives on folklore from different parts of the world throughout the ages. The exhibition runs from 6 - 25 May 2022 in a wonderful 2-storey double fronted space on Chiltern Street, courtesy of The Portman Estate. From 25 May - 31 August, an expanded version of the exhibition will then run online on the Flora Fairbairn & Co. website. A percentage of profits from the exhibition will be donated to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Participating artists include:

- Mamma Andersson
- Paul Archard
- Oliver Barnett
- Samuel Bassett
- Greta Bellamacina
- Paul Benney
- Anna Boggon
- Bea Bonafini
- John Caple
- Rob and Nick Carter
- Dinos Chapman
- Aisha Christison
- Miranda Donovan
- Ben Edge
- Rosannagh Scarlet Esson
- Minnie Evans
- Tessa Farmer
- Christina Forrer
- Olga Frantskevich
- Tom Gallant
- Jasper Goodall
- Leah Gordon
- Phil Goss
- David Hockney
- Ann-Marie James
- Mark Karasick
- Tae Kim
- Judit Kristensen
- Henry Krokatsis
- Liane Lang
- Hannah Lees
- Wolfe von Lenkiewicz
- Georges Liautaud
- Mário Macilau
- Robert Montgomery
- Eleanor Moreton
- Ryan Mosley
- Mariele Neudecker
- Abe Odedina
- Zak Ové
- Rebecca Parkin
- Oliver Pearce
- Paige Perkins
- Freya Pocklington
- Paula Rego
- Barry Reigate
- Lorna Robertson
- Orlando Seale
- Nooka Shepherd
- Kiki Smith
- Janet Sobel
- Alexis Soul-Gray
- Suzanne Treister
- Johnson Weree
- Justin Williams

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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### *Once Upon a Time...*

A group exhibition exploring folklore, myths and fairytales\*

Co-curated by Flora Fairbairn & Katie Heller

6 - 25 May 2022 | Tues - Sat: 11am - 6pm & Sun: 2pm - 6pm

23 - 25 Chiltern Street, Marylebone, London W1U 7PW

**Venue courtesy of the Portman Estate**

**Private View:** Thursday 5 May, 6pm - 9pm

Drinks courtesy of Black Cow Vodka, Mydflower & Fever-Tree

**Press Preview:** Tuesday 3 May, 10am - 12pm

**Gallery Talk:** Thursday 19 May from 6pm - 8pm

Clover Stroud & Kate Spicer

*Elevation of Death and Grief by Magical Thinking*

Clover Stroud (*The Red of My Blood*) and Kate Spicer (*Lost Dog: A Love Story*), are both Sunday Times bestselling writers. In this talk they discuss magical thinking and how this can elevate grief into something majestic and hopeful. The two writers explore the use of magic, myth and the miraculous to reconnect with the inner self. Touching upon their own personal stories about loss, the conversation aims to examine magical thinking, either provided by myth, legend, religious belief systems, or of your own imaginary accord as an approach to find a path through the tangled forest of grief.

**Expanded Online Exhibition:** 25 May - 31 August, [www.florafairbairn.com](http://www.florafairbairn.com)

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\*Folklore is a broad and varied subject, covering a plethora of themes including storytelling; fairytale; myths and legends; archetypal imagery and iconography; ritual; superstition; religious festivals and traditions; and much more.

ABOUT FLORA FAIRBAIRN & CO.

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**FLORA**  
**FAIRBAIRN**  
**AND CO.**

We build art collections, curate exhibitions, produce creative projects and present art for sale. Since 2000, Flora Fairbairn has collaborated with a wide network of artists, curators, institutions, foundations, collectors, consultants, galleries, charities, developers and sponsors. Flora Fairbairn & Co, utilises Flora's unique position and experience to build art collections and produce cutting-edge exhibitions, events and

installations, often in architecturally-interesting, temporary locations. These use the contemporary arts as a vehicle to drive awareness of a whole range of issues, whether in the not-for-profit sector, or by bringing deserving artists to centre stage.

**W:** [www.florafairbairn.com](http://www.florafairbairn.com)

**E:** [everyone@florafairbairn.com](mailto:everyone@florafairbairn.com)

**IG:** [@florafairbairn](https://www.instagram.com/florafairbairn)

## ABOUT KATIE HELLER

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Katie has worked on various private and corporate collections and has worked with Whitechapel Gallery, Frieze Art Fair and Sotheby's. An art history graduate from Bristol University, she spent seven years running a gallery and residency programme for recent art graduates and then went on to build programmes and collections for The House of St Barnabas, Soho House, and KOKO.

In 2017 Katie co-founded Art for Grenfell, a charity auction with Sotheby's which raised two million pounds for the survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire. She has also worked with artists on commissions within the public realm, an arts festival in Soho and a range of limited-edition prints. She now works as an independent Art Advisor, Consultant and Curator based in London.

**E: [katie@hellerarts.com](mailto:katie@hellerarts.com)**

## ABOUT PORTMAN MARYLEBONE

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### **PORTMAN** **MARYLEBONE**

Home to a wide variety of quality, independent boutiques, restaurants, cafés and delis, Portman Marylebone comprises the independent retail and leisure destinations on The Portman Estate's 110 acres of Marylebone, including Seymour Place, New Quebec Street and Chiltern Street.

An iconic, red-bricked stretch of independent, unique boutiques and cafés amid Victorian-gothic architecture, Chiltern Street is home to a number of specialist shops, alongside stylish menswear, boutique womenswear and renowned restaurants.

Further details can be found at: **[www.portmanmarylebone.com](http://www.portmanmarylebone.com)**

## ABOUT THE PORTMAN ESTATE

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**THE**  
**PORTMAN**  
**ESTATE**

The Portman Estate comprises 110 acres of Marylebone in London's West End, including frontages to Oxford Street and Baker Street. It covers 69 streets, 650 buildings and four garden squares all housing over 700 directly managed residential units, 290 office units, 150 shops and restaurants, 27 hotels and seven pubs. Since 2002,

the Estate has directly invested an average of £20 million per year throughout Marylebone. Over the next ten years, an estimated £250 million will be reinvested Estate-wide to ensure long term growth and create attractive, vibrant spaces for the Marylebone community to enjoy.

Recent developments include 1-4 Marble Arch, and joint ventures with Native Land at Regent House on Edgware Road and the landmark mixed use development with Almacantar at Marble Arch Place.

Further details can be found at: **[www.portmanestate.co.uk](http://www.portmanestate.co.uk)**

## ABOUT THE GALLERY OF EVERYTHING

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This project has been made with the support of The Gallery of Everything, a platform for alternative, neurodiverse and non-academic art-makers. Its roster includes contemporary and historic art brut, so-called outsider artists, and vernacular objects from the 1800s to the present day.

The gallery engages with a wide network of institutions, artists and curators to place material into major private and public collections.

Proceeds support The Museum of Everything, a non-profit organisation and the world's only itinerant institution for artists and makers beyond the cultural mainstream.

[www.gallevery.com](http://www.gallevery.com) // [@gallevery](https://www.instagram.com/gallevery)

## ABOUT BLACK COW VODKA

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Zero waste to wonderful taste since 2012. Black Cow is the world's first Pure Milk Vodka. Made in West Dorset using what is left over from grass-grazed cows milk after making cheese. Using milk as their only source ingredient is what makes Black Cow vodka so smooth. Sip neat, or mix in a long drink or cocktail.

[www.blackcow.co.uk](http://www.blackcow.co.uk)

## ABOUT MYDFLOWER

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Mydflower was founded in the lockdown of 2020 by David & Michael, two friends united by a passion for nature, summer, myth, and an ice cold drink to wash it down. They make their drinks at Graig, a hill farm in the Brecon Beacons near the ancient village of Myddfai, a place rich in folklore, and once a centre of natural medicine and healing. In the days before

clocks and calendars, we marked the passing of the seasons through our senses. Mydflower is a celebration of those transitions and the extraordinary things that each new season brings to our hedgerows and woodlands. Every can is a toast to the brilliance of the natural world and a rekindling of the old ways in a contemporary setting.

[www.mydflower.com](http://www.mydflower.com)

## ABOUT FEVER-TREE

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Fever-Tree began in 2003 with a meeting of minds and one simple premise: if three quarters of your drink is the mixer, wouldn't you want it to be the best?

Since putting the lid on their first bottle of Premium Indian Tonic Water, Fever-Tree haven't wavered in their single-minded mission to bring quality, flavour and choice back to mixers. Innovation remains at the heart of Fever-Tree and they've developed a delicious and varied range of tonic waters; three incredibly diverse varieties of ginger that which they've used to make a selection of ginger ales and ginger beer; a cola using Madagascan vanilla; lemonades using the finest, naturally sourced ingredients; and a beautifully simple soda water too.

Fever-Tree's story is about going to the ends of the earth in pursuit of the best and, the most exciting thing is, they've only just scratched the surface.

[www.fever-tree.com](http://www.fever-tree.com)

## ABOUT TOM FAULKNER

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Tom Faulkner designs and makes exquisite and distinctive furniture and accessories. Almost every piece is handmade in Tom's workshop in Wiltshire. Their signature qualities are clean lines, simplicity and beautiful materials. Loved by private clients and professional interior designers alike, Tom's show-stopping furniture is equally at home in contemporary and traditional settings. The firm is celebrated for its faultless standards of quality and exceptional service.

[www.tomfaulkner.co.uk](http://www.tomfaulkner.co.uk)

## ABOUT PREVIEW TOOLS

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Preview tools is the art world's premium virtual production software. It is used by the biggest names in the art market to create photorealistic exhibition films and publicity materials in a fraction of the time of filming in the real world. Preview tools cuts the costs and carbon footprint associated with video production by a factor of ten. Using cutting edge scanning technology, exhibition spaces both physical and imagined can be transformed into immersive digital environments where projects of any scale can be realised - even those which might otherwise be impossible in the physical world.

[www.previewtools.com](http://www.previewtools.com)

## ABOUT THE DEC UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

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### **UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL**

More than 10 million people have fled their homes to escape conflict in Ukraine. Leaving behind jobs, belongings and loved ones, they need shelter, food and water. Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country, causing millions to

flee. Homes have been destroyed. Essential services have been hit. Families have been separated. People have been injured. Lives have been lost. Heavy fighting, shelling and air strikes across Ukraine have had devastating consequences for civilians. At least 4 million people have fled the country since the conflict began, and another 6.5 million have had to leave their homes to escape the fighting. In total around a quarter of Ukraine's population has been displaced.

**[www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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