

Alice Browne - 'Forecast' 29 September - 5 November 2016

'As my gaze sank more deeply into them,
Each one of them seemed to be twisted round
Between the chin and the point where the thorax begins;

So that the head was turned, back to front,
And they were therefore obliged to walk backwards,
No longer being able to look the other way.

It may be that there are cases of palsy
In which people are forced into such a twist,
But I have never seen them, and do not credit it.

If you would have God let you profit by
Your reading, reader, now consider for yourself
How I was able to keep my face dry

When right before me I saw the human image
So twisted, that tears coming from the eyes
Rolled down into the crack of the buttocks.'

-Dante Alighieri describes the apt punishment of the futurologists in Canto XX of Inferno from his epic poem, The Divine Comedy (c. 1308-1320).

Alice Browne's exhibition title, 'Forecast', refers to her interest in the problematic practice of projecting a vision of the future. Alighieri's 'seers' crying into their arse cracks as illustrated by Botticelli, became a catalyst for Browne: "The sinners are caught in a quandary between seeing forwards and walking backwards or walking forwards but always having to look at where they have just been. It begs the question; do we learn more from our past, or by predicting our futures?"

For her exhibition, Browne has developed a new body of paintings which, for the first time in her practice, figuratively reference Botticelli's illustrations (c. 1485-1500) and Dante's vision of the 'malebolge' – the structure of concentric evil ditches in which the sinners guilty of fraud are punished. The works also gesture towards a more innocent desire to will our own futures through reading star signs or simple gestures such as crossing fingers for luck (also used as a sign of deceit). Working procedurally with layers of paint towards a formally unpredictable outcome, Browne embraces the anxiety of not knowing.

Her paintings describe obscure imaginative spaces, which simultaneously appear to adhere to the rules of gravity and perspective whilst outwardly ignoring them. Boxes, shadows, screens and girders mingle with drips, floating transparent forms and abstract geometric shapes. Her works appear to occupy multiple planes and visual languages, resulting in a complex network of forms that flip between object and image.

On the floor of the gallery is a collection of what Browne describes as her 'photo-objects'. Obscure in their origin, the unplaceable images reference the practice of cleromancy (divination by casting lots, such as dice), sprawling across the gallery floor, awaiting plausible reading.

Alice Browne (b. 1986, based in London, UK) gained her BA Fine Art Painting at Wimbledon College of Art (2009) and her MA Fine Art Painting at the Royal College of Art (2016). Select recent solo and group shows include Limoncello, London, UK (2016); OUTPOST, Norwich, UK (2015), Prosjektrom Normanns, Stavanger, NO (2014); Limoncello, London, UK; annarumma, Naples, IT; Fjord, Philadelphia, US; Interno 4, Bologna, IT (all 2013); dienstgebäude, Zurich, CH; Supercollider, Blackpool, UK (both 2012); APT Gallery, London, UK (2011); and A Foundation, Liverpool, UK; ICA, London, UK (both 2010).

Limoncello

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Clockwise from left to right.

1 'A lot of creative work may need to be finished by today, Gemini. If you're professionally involved with writing, a deadline may loom. It could be difficult to get it done because family members and guests could constantly go in and out and keep you from concentrating. The best course of action might be to go somewhere quiet, like a library, and do your work there. Think about it!', 2016

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas, H213.5cm x W173cm

2 'Forwards, Backwards', 2016

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas, H178.5cm x W152.5cm

3 'Backwards, Forwards', 2016

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas, H177cm x W150cm

4 'Malebolge', 2016,

Acrylic and Oil on Linen, H244cm x W194cm

5 'The Shape of Things to Come', 2016

Printed Vinyl, Acrylic and Rubber, dimensions variable

Gallery opening hours:

Wednesday – Saturday, 11am – 6pm and by appointment.

Forthcoming:

Frieze Art Fair, London, 5 - 9 Oct: Booth B13

Limoncello Cork Street, 13 - 25 Oct: 'Short-term Storage' by Holly Hendry and Kate Owens

Limoncello 17 Nov-17 Dec: 'WHY WOULD I WANT TO KILL MY HUSBAND?' by Rade Petrasevic

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