

FRESTONIAN GALLERY

GARDENS OF IDEAS

DAVID PRICE | BOB & ROBERTA SMITH | JESSICA VOORSANGER

Private View: Wednesday 6th Nov, 6-9pm | Exhibition Dates: 7th Nov – 7th Dec 2019

Frestonian Gallery is delighted to present 'Gardens of Ideas' – new works by three artists each addressing the importance of art in our (and every) culture. Art as a part of the human condition is that vital thread of human endeavour that ploughs ahead full steam regardless of the restraints and material realities that may hold us back or slow us down in other regards. Naum Gabo (another artist adopting a 'nom de pinceau') wrote in 1966: 'The way of a creative mind is always positive, it always asserts; it does not know the doubts which are so characteristic of the scientific mind'. So, in these bright and bold new paintings, collages and constructions, Price, Smith & Voorsanger press forward amid, and through, the swirling confusion and division of the current politics to create works which are unflinchingly optimistic, beautiful, sometimes absurd, in one word – joyous.

David Price's new series of paintings 'The Still Life' is anything but 'still'. In these extraordinarily layered and deftly constructed compositions the classically genteel motif of the 'flower painting' is infused with a completely anarchic energy. The blooms themselves erupt from their vessels, or otherwise hang in the air as abstracted blocks of colour & texture. These paintings span a year of Price's rapidly evolving practice, and represent an increasing boldness and energy in his style. Price is a graduate of the Royal College of Art and has been a Fellow of the Royal Academy. He was part of the prestigious New Contemporaries, and his work is held in several major collections, including the V&A Museum, London.

Bob and Roberta Smith presents here a group of new works exploring music, notation and synaesthesia – as well as several 'slogan' works that trumpet the virtues of art itself. Bob is actually one man. Before studying Fine Art at Goldsmiths in the early 1990s, Bob lived in Rome, New York and Wensleydale, and now lives between Leytonstone in East London and Ramsgate. He is a highly prominent artist, elected as a Royal Academician in 2013, and an OBE in 2017. He is also a curator, musician and professor at the Sir John Cass Dept. of Art. He has had numerous solo exhibitions at prestigious institutions including Museum of Modern Art PS1, New York and The Baltic, Gateshead, and has featured in exhibitions at Tate Britain; Tate Liverpool; the Hayward Gallery, London; the Whitechapel Gallery, London; Pierogi, New York; CCAC, San Francisco; National Gallery, Copenhagen and CIMA Gallery, Calcutta. Smith's work can be found in public collections including the Tate Collection, UK Arts Council Collection and UK British Council Collection. His recent (2018-19) highly acclaimed exhibition at the Royal Academy, *The Secret To A Good Life*, was a collaboration with Jessica and his daughter Etta Voorsanger-Brill.

Jessica Voorsanger is represented in the exhibition by a series of paintings and photo-collages that each in their own way tie in to her central concerns of popular culture, in particular 'celebrity', through obsession, fans and media representation. Originally from the USA, Voorsanger trained at the Rhode Island School of Design in the eighties, before moving to the UK and graduating in the early nineties from Goldsmiths College, London. Her work in all its many and varied forms – including film, photography, performance (both individual and mass-participatory) and sculpture – has been celebrated throughout the UK and Europe at many dozens of galleries and institutions, including the Tate, Serpentine, ICA, Whitechapel Gallery & at the Venice Biennale. She teaches at both Wimbledon School of Art and the University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury.

For further information on the artists and exhibition please visit: www.frestoniangallery.com