

# PIECES OF PERFECTION

paintings from the archive

A solo exhibition by Julia Warr

13 March to 12 May 2023

The Union Club proudly presents a solo exhibition by American British artist Julia Warr with a collection of paintings from her personal archive (2002-2010) shown here for the first time in the UK.

These works typify Julia Warr's methodology and critical praise received over the years for creating "a style that she has hallmarked as her own" (*The Independent*). Her portraits "transcends the scientific method of painting, producing a paradoxical hand-crafted feeling, a pixelated tapestry for the twenty-first century" (*Contemporary magazine*).



The subjects, often female and formally beautiful, appear numb and blank faced, yet confrontational.

Their camera-conscious poses share the physicality and movement seen in fashion, a language intuitively known by Warr; herself a former runway model. Most striking though is the palette. Warr's colours are peculiar and delectable, pulsating like "large pixels of boiled sugar, to form some very approximate yet recognizable image" (*ArtForum*).

In Julia's words: "*Pieces of Perfection* has one foot in fashion and the other in that confessional place social media craves access to: the space where influencers can let slip their personal uncertainty in a selfie moment of reflection within their consciously constructed image.

*Pieces of Perfection* is a dreamed about waist, breast, hand gesture, or hollowed out hip, but in these paintings the body parts are codified and democratized into grid formations of thick paint and scratchy strokes of imperfection.

I've been practicing as an artist for over 20 years but my family are engineers, draughtsmen, and dentists. Maybe this background shows in my work, as I choose to be technical, follow rules, be methodical and unemotional by pouring acrylics between strictly delineated lines, but the paint seeps out and I can see vulnerability in the mistakes and mess-ups. In 'The Shoot' series I challenged myself to make the same painting every day for 6 days, as it is when assuming the same repetitive positions modelling for e-commerce. It's a strategic ambiguity which I apply across my drawing, performance, and video work."

## **Biography**

Julia Warr, born San Jose, California, is an American / British multi-disciplinary artist practicing in New York and London. She graduated with a BA (Hons.) Visual Art from Goldsmith College (1999) and was awarded the prestigious annual Warden's Prize.

Julia Warr works with painting, performance, acting and film, to explore and expose the disconnect between fiction and reality. Her film works have been screened at Whitechapel Gallery, Sadlers Wells, and 92Y (New York City). Warr has performed at the Serpentine Gallery in Oreet Ashery's critically acclaimed film "Revisiting Genesis". Past exhibitions include the John Moores Painting Prize (selected 2016), Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, and shows in 2023 include 'The Goddesses (A Love Bomb)', Terrace Gallery, London, and 'String Theory', Lexington House, Lexington, New York.

Selected exhibition reviews: ArtForum (US, Barry Schwabsky), The Independent (UK, Sue Hubbard), and Contemporary magazine (UK, P. F.).

Selected public and private collections: Goldsmiths College, University of London; British Airways; Raad voor de Rechtspraak, Den Haag; ABN AMRO Art Foundation, Holland; Stuyvesant Collection, Holland; and the collection of Kate Moss, London.

## **Visiting**

By appointment: Monday to Friday | 10am to 5pm | 13 March to 12 May 2023

The Union Club | 49-50 Greek St, London W1D 4EQ | [www.unionclub.co.uk](http://www.unionclub.co.uk)

## **Enquiries & Sales**

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