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PRESS RELEASE

OUR HOME, THIS MORTAL COIL

15 – 26 September 2021

Cromwell Place

BARBARA ALEGRE, IRINI BACHLITZANAKI, K BLICK, JANA EMBUREY, ALICE KEMP, YUICHIRO KIKUMA, YI TO

Home is where we live

In our bodies

In our minds

With others

With things

With our beliefs, our myths and Gods

Alone

Within nature

Within the universe

Our Home, This Mortal Coil brings together the work of seven contemporary artists examining the spaces we inhabit physically and spiritually under the lens of non-duality.

Acknowledging humanity as all-encompassing as the universe, extraordinary and mundane, vast and intimate, tender and cruel, orderly and random, the works in this exhibition aim to express a notion of the self, outside of mediated knowledge but within the inseparable relationships that form the everyday lifeworld.

“The ordinary and sages, beings with spirits, are equally my home”

- ZHANG ZHUO

Bárbara Alegre's practice investigates universal questions about being human and the entangled relationship between the physical and the psychological across the individual and the collective. Oscillating between image, subject and object, Alegre's paintings seek to capture the intangible and inseparable interaction between bodily senses and thoughts, observing it with empathy and tenderness. Quiet, intimate and contemplative, the work supports the idea of art as a “shelter”, a safe space, somewhere to return and reflect.

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Inspired by material culture and the biographies of objects, **Irini Bachlitzanaki** builds upon a world that is known and familiar to examine our relationship to the objects we share our lives with and the spaces they inhabit, and explore things as a means of knowing—and ever discovering—the world around us. Within a practice that is primarily sculptural, often referencing design and artisanal traditions, Bachlitzanaki touches upon ideas of recognisability, culture specificity, rituals, and the object as a continuation of the body and the self.

KBlick imagines a world where animals and gods interact, reinterpreting myths and playfully exploring allegories and mythologies around the trajectory of human existence alongside animals and nature. Through her exuberant, expressive paintings she seeks to revisit and challenge historical and archetypal narratives, envisioning alternative pathways for the origin and evolution of humankind.

Jana Emburey creates fantastical micro/macrocosms exploring the ideas of interconnectivity, oneness and universal dynamics. Using a rich visual vocabulary, from complex, intricate compositions comprised of tiny individual cells to fluid soak-stain abstract topographies, she considers humanity's place in the cosmos, time and space. Emburey approaches the work mindfully, as an expression of a state of consciousness, with the experience of the process, alternating between single point focus and an expansive state of flow, inextricably linked with the outcome.

Alice Kemp finds inspiration in nature and the mundane, painting traditionally decorative subjects like plants, flowers, animals and landscapes yet choosing to accentuate both their beauty and inherent asymmetry, what she describes as natural “crookedness or bulginess”. Influenced by the Japanese approach to art where the distance between art, decoration and nature is shorter, she approaches her subjects with a conscious mix of expression and restraint, minimalism and visual overload.

Yuichiro Kikuma's paintings incorporate non-painterly methods to create conditions for unexpected images to emerge. In recent years he has predominantly used black ink and explored household devices as mark making tools; these tools enable him to work indirectly, often in a mechanical and repetitive manner which leaves space for calculated chance. Kikuma's works attempt to visualise the invisible forces, patterns or rhythms that exist around us in daily life, in the same way as any landscapes are created as a result of their specific climate.

Yi To explores the pre-narrative state of life formation where the body cannot be located in a specifically gendered, racial, or geographical point. Seeing existence as an embryonic domain rooted within a collective network, she considers the inseparable line between body, transcendence and the sublime. In Yi To's work, pigment and material, in relation to discolouring and erosion as a history of mark making, serve as cohesive devices that reveal primordality and the present as a single organism, redefining contemporaneity.

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Cromwell Place | Gallery 6 | 4 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2JE

Opening Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 6 pm; Sunday 10-4 pm; Tuesday by appointment.

Booking is essential, please book through the website: www.ioneandmann.com/our-home

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For additional information, artwork/ installation images or to arrange an appointment please contact us at

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