

GALLERY
ELENA
SHCHUKINA

LULU MANASSEH
LOCATING ONE SELF
8th February – 2nd March 2018



Gallery Elena Shchukina presents *Locating One Self*, a solo exhibition of mixed media paintings by London-based artist and PROJECT2017 public vote competition winner, Lulu Manasseh. Comprising four interrelated series of works, the exhibition is conceived as a narrative display of Manasseh's artistic and spiritual journey over a year of intense creative productivity.

With a focus on process, intended both as the physical practice of building an artwork and the artist's labour of self-discovery, *Locating One Self* guides the visitors through a transcendental journey of shifting perspectives.

Earthy, layered paintings incorporating natural materials such as hessian and clay, the artworks on the lower floor are firmly grounded in the physical realm. Titled *The Heart of the Matter*, this series is a practical exploration of materials, but also a philosophical search for point(s) of origin, the crux "where two opposing forces cross and meet, providing a completely new and unique perspective. Centred on the heart of the matter we can explore our relationship to ourselves and the world around us."

Moving up to the ground floor, the works gradually lose their earthbound qualities – natural pigment, black paint and woven material slowly give way to thin layers of white paper and clean, graphic marks.

"The drawings illustrate a universe of moving points, forming pathways that stop, pass each other, cross or meet."

Shifting focus from the ground to the stars, the works in the *Mapping Infinity* series take the artist's exploration of our relationships to the metaphysical realm, attempting to capture fleeting snapshots of a universe in constant flux: "multidimensional, multi-directional, we can move between or create new constellations... The possibilities are endless." Looking back onto the world from a higher viewpoint, Manasseh achieves a complete shift in perspective in *Between Here and There*. "Realising that the actual process of building the maps is integral to the information received from them," explains Manasseh, these maps can help us to see ourselves.

The journey of *Locating One Self* finds its conclusion in a final act of synthesised unity: inscribing the maps within layers of clay, hessian, fibres, acrylic and oil paint, Manasseh creates powerful textural black and gold paintings in which all perspectives finally meet.

"It is only by diving into the depths, into the darkness, that we can discover One Self. A timeless presence, an anchor in this ever-changing world. A place where we all meet, where differences fall away and we unite in harmony."

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For press information and high-resolution images please contact Rebecca Gremmo: rebecca@elenashchukina.com or 02074996019

Gallery Elena Shchukina
10 Lees Place, Mayfair
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Weblink to exhibition page: <http://bit.ly/2wooOsM>

Notes to editors:

• Gallery Elena Shchukina is a contemporary art gallery located in Mayfair that draws from a pool of established and emerging international artists exhibiting identifiable or innovative techniques.
The Gallery offers a stimulating schedule of art and cultural events, workshops and lectures, and has an e-commerce platform offering work by a set of primarily UK-based artists.