

Riflemaker

PRESS RELEASE

JOSEPHINE KING: 'I told him I was an Artist. He said, "Can you cook?"'

Monday 26 March – Saturday 21 April 2012

Private View: Monday 26 March, 6 to 9pm



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"They seem to me to be totally truthful pictures. From the heart. Many people will identify with these images" Paula Rego.

The subject of Josephine King's upcoming exhibition at Riflemaker is the artist's relationships with men (see exhibition title). King (b. 1965, London) makes ink paintings on paper; self-portraits which document her battle with life. Her acclaimed debut exhibition 'Life So Far', explored the trauma of the artist's extreme bi-polar mania. The series later led to a nomination in the category for *Best Visual Artist* at the South Bank Show Awards.

In this new exhibition, Rifle-maker will present thirty of King's new ink paintings made during the past two years. The sensuous full-length portraits and the sardonic, disarmingly honest texts which frame them, document personal relationships, her devotion to her work and the isolation of her illness.

"In painting Modern Woman, I am looking outside of myself rather than just looking within. Showing myself naked in both mind and body depicts how it feels for me to be going against the grain of society. As a woman painter, I have nothing to lose", Josephine King.

The poster-like composition of King's paintings point to an innate faculty for an interest in design, perhaps influenced by the work and also the collections of her father, the designer, photographer and curator David King. The painting style takes from the design world, haute couture, Fauvism, early 20c Russian painting, Victoriana and Art Nouveau.

TEXTS FRAMING THE PAINTINGS IN THE EXHIBITION:

1.'SELFISH BITCH' - FEMALE ARTIST - OSTRACIZED - MY LIFE EVOKES HATE, JEALOUSY, ENVY, ANGER - THE PRICE I PAY 2.'SELFISH BITCH' - FEMALE ARTIST - NO CHILDREN - POODLES AND CHAMPAGNE - TRAVELS AND SKETCHBOOKS - FREE 3.'SELFISH BITCH' - FEMALE ARTIST - UNACCEPTED - RIDICULED - DISMISSED - INSULTED - UNTOUCHABLE -

King grew up in the bohemia of late 1960s north London and has spent prolonged periods in Amsterdam, Berlin, China, India, Moscow and in Portugal, where she modelled for Paula Rego. She appears as the stepmother in Rego's seminal 1995 work 'Snow White and her Stepmother'.

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Exhibition curator: Virginia Damtsa at Rifle-maker: virginia@riflemaker.org

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 10am – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 6pm

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Rifle-maker is co-directed by Virginia Damtsa & Tot Taylor.