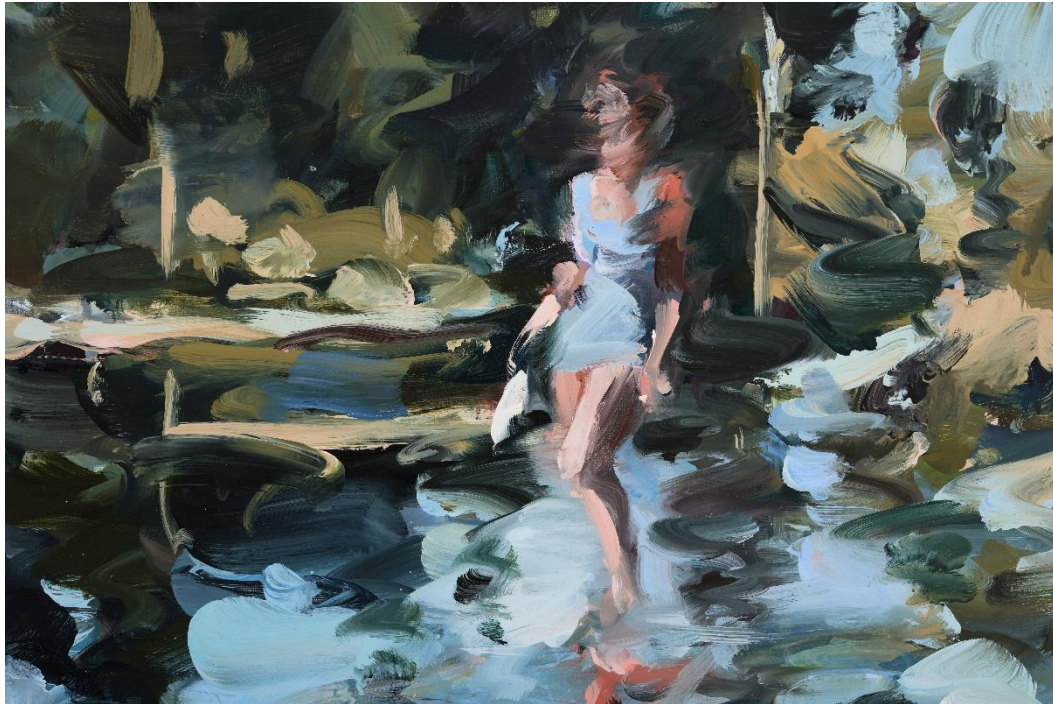


Laura Lancaster and Rachel Lancaster
Remember, Somewhere

BALTIC

12 April – 12 October 2025

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead



A new exhibition at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art will display work by prolific painters and twin sisters, Laura Lancaster and Rachel Lancaster. Opening on 12 April 2025, *Remember, Somewhere* will be the first major institutional showing of the two artists' work together.

Laura Lancaster makes paintings from found imagery, collected from anonymous analogue photographs and film. She transposes the lost and discarded memories of strangers into ambiguous territory between abstraction and figuration. Divorced from their specific context and time Lancaster relocates the image to a place of collective memory.

Shifting between the sentimental and the grotesque, Lancaster's paintings are uncanny and strange, dreamlike visions from a shared consciousness.

Confronting a gendered history of painting, Lancaster draws upon a range of influences including the work of Francis Bacon, Willem DeKooning, Lovis Corinth, and James Ensor. Lancaster subverts the notion of authorial autonomy, allowing her work to become a conduit through which the lives of the lost and the nameless are connected with our own.

"We've shared a studio together in the Ouseburn, not far from Baltic for over 12 years now, and hope that the visitors in the exhibition will feel involved in this conversation between our two artistic practices and the conversations and exchange of ideas which was happening during the making of these paintings. This opportunity has allowed us to scale up our work and present the largest two-person exhibition of mine and Rachel's work so far. As artists who grew up in and live in the North East of England it feels significant to present our work to this audience," said Laura Lancaster.

Rachel Lancaster's practice is focused on painting and its interactions with the languages of cinema, music and photography. Photographic 'stills' from found moving imagery, alongside an archive of her own photographs are selected from, edited and then translated into oil paintings.

Lancaster's paintings represent detailed fragments of a greater narrative. She is drawn to seemingly insignificant passing shots, extreme close ups of inanimate objects, common place domestic interiors; the split-second moments that are "in-between" the action. Divorced physically from their position within a narrative

structure, these paintings become abstract, ambiguous and open ended as to the unknown events which have preceded or may follow.



The process of remaking these images in paint is used to draw out the uncanny and the potential psychological charge within source imagery. The paintings are made by applying successive thin glazes of translucent oil paint, many layers of colour and texture accrue over time. This technique encourages a dichotomy of definition and abstraction. The surface of the paint creates an array of optical effects; the anticipated details within the surface of the paint often give way to loose and minimal rendering on closer inspection by the viewer. Cropping, colour and mark making are manipulated in order to play upon the latent 'otherness' and dreamlike qualities often found in cinema and how this can be reflected in painting.

"I am excited to be showing my work with Laura at Baltic for our first duo exhibition in a museum setting. The support from Baltic has facilitated the production of a new body of (mostly) large scale works

especially for the show - the largest I have made in over 15 years. The process of making these paintings has provided a great opportunity to delve deeper into themes and ideas within my work. It has promoted a vibrant conversation about the connections between my practice and Laura's and I look forward to sharing this with the large and diverse audience of Baltic visitors. As an artist born and based in the North East it means a great deal to show my work in region," said Rachel Lancaster.

Though identical twins, who share a studio in Newcastle less than a mile from Baltic, Laura Lancaster and Rachel Lancaster have both developed distinct strategies for making work which at first glance appear visually opposite.

Whilst Laura Lancaster works with a loose and gestural 'wet on wet' technique of painting that explores the tension between figuration and abstraction, Rachel Lancaster creates tightly controlled luminescent images with rich colour and depth built through thinly layered glazes of oil paint.

This exhibition explores the points of contact between the two artists which stem from a shared interest in the found image as the origin of their work; Laura through collecting discarded analogue photographs from second hand markets and online, and Rachel by taking her own photographs of B movies and cult cinema.

Intimacy, ambiguity and presence, are central to both artists, and the subject is focussed upon the solitary female - either dissolving into landscape in Laura's case - or close cropped and in relation to specific items of jewellery or fabric in Rachel's work. In both

practices the fleeting and incidental are monumentalised, and monumentality itself is explored from a feminist perspective, through the means of a collective and collaborative authorship in dialogue with found and dislocated imagery.

Remember, Somewhere will explore the relationship between the artists and their practice and will include newly commissioned works and loans from the Government Art Collection and various private collections.

Both artists are represented by WORKPLACE.

Remember, Somewhere will be on show from 12 April 2025 until 12 October 2025.

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Notes to editors

Laura Lancaster (b.1979, Hartlepool, UK) lives and works in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

She completed her BA in Fine Art at Northumbria University. Recent solo exhibitions include *In Dreams*, Workplace, London, UK; *My Echo, My Shadow*, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland; *Inside The Mirror*, Wooson Gallery, South Korea; *Running Towards Nothing*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles; *Laura Lancaster*, New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK; and *A Stranger's Dream*, Sargent's Daughters, New York, NY.

She has been included in group exhibitions at Marlborough Gallery, London, UK; Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, Sunderland, UK; New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK; Royal Academy, London, UK; Museum of Art, Kochi, Japan; Itami City Museum of Art, Hyogo/Osaka, Japan; and Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Laura Lancaster's work is included in The British Council Collection, UK; New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK; Nerman Museum, Kansas, USA; and The Government Art Collection, UK. Her work has been published in *Vitamin P3: New Perspectives* in

Painting for Phaidon Press, and *Picturing People* by Charlotte Mullins for Thames and Hudson.

Rachel Lancaster (b.1979, Hartlepool, UK) lives and works in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. She completed her MFA in Fine Art at Newcastle University and her BA in Fine Art at Northumbria University.

Lancaster has exhibited widely and taken part in numerous projects, performances and artist residencies both nationally and internationally. Solo exhibitions include *In The Wake*, *Workplace*, Newcastle, *From Another Room*, The Shophouse, Hong Kong, She has been included in group exhibitions at Gallery 2, Seoul; Bradley Ertaskiren, Montréal; The Auxiliary, Middlesbrough, UK; Elysium Gallery, Swansea; UK; Art Spot Korin, Kyoto, and Venice, Italy; Royal Academy, London; Rye Art Gallery, Kent, UK; Huddersfield Art Gallery, Huddersfield; Baltic 39, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK; and Kotti-Shop, Berlin.

Lancaster is the recipient of Ares Mosaic Art Prize, BEEP Painting Prize, and was shortlisted for the Contemporary British Painting Prize. She was Artist-in-Residence at Alewife Brook Road in New York, the former residence and studio of Elaine De Kooning. Her work is held in Government Art Collection, and multiple private collections.

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art is a major international centre for art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. It has welcomed over 9 million visitors since opening in July 2002. Baltic presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of temporary exhibitions and events and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art. Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, Baltic houses 2,600 square metres of art space, making it one of Europe's largest dedicated contemporary art institutions. Baltic has presented the work of over 877 artists of 78 nationalities in 266 exhibitions to date including Joy Labinjo, Hew Locke, Heather Phillipson, Antony Gormley, Cornelia Parker, Daniel Buren, Lubaina Himid, Steve McQueen, Jenny Holzer, Judy Chicago, Lorna Simpson, Imran Peretta, Huma Bhahba and John Akomfrah.

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art
South Shore Road, Gateshead NE8 3BA
Open Wednesday – Sunday, 10am–6pm. Free entry.

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WORKPLACE is an art gallery based in London and Newcastle specialising in contemporary art, representing international and British artists working across media and at different career stages. The gallery is committed to championing an increasingly diverse roster of artists through its programme of exhibitions, events and art fair participation.

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