JANET SAINSBURY

THE STUDIO, NEWLYN ART GALLERY 05 APR - 07 JUN 2025

NEWLYN ART GALLERY & THE EXCHANGE

Janet Sainsbury paints portraits of 20th-century writers and artists she admires, including photographer Lee Miller, surrealist painter Leonora Carrington, and modernist writers Katherine Mansfield and Jean Rhys. Through researching their work and reading about their lives, she develops an intimate and emotional connection that manifests in her portraits. She seeks to convey the vulnerability, humour, and bravado she finds in their stories.

Janet expresses these feelings of empathy and familiarity through her use of colour and scale. Working from black-and-white photographs, she paints multiple versions of the same subject in her quest to understand them more deeply. On canvas, she builds up thin layers of colour, scraping back and repainting to create depth and nuance. On paper, she works quickly with washes of watercolour and ink, keeping details to a minimum.

Her feelings towards her subjects shift over time, and her portraits are not fixed likenesses but interpretations—elusive and fluid, capturing only one version of the truth while acknowledging that the subjects can never be fully known.

The figures portrayed here have connections to Cornwall.

Gallery Patrons and Supporters receive a 10% discount on purchases made in The Picture Room. If you have any questions please ask at the front desk.

newlynartgallery.co.uk 01736 363715





LIST OF WORKS



Bleeding Heart (Dylan Thomas), 2024 Ink & watercolour on paper, Framed, 59x42cm £470



Girl on the Train, 2024 Ink & watercolour on paper, Framed, 29.5x20.5cm £380



Raw Red (Caitlin McNamara), 2025 Oil on gesso board, Framed, 30.5x30.5cm £450



Blue Headscarf (Barbara Hepworth), 2024 Oil on gesso panel, Framed, 20.4x20.4cm £400



Delicate Joy (Katherine Mansfield), 2024 Oil on paper, Framed, 42x30cm £450



The Wonder (Lee Miller), 2024 Oil on perspex, Framed, 23.5 x 24cm £420



Favourite Pink, (Jean Rhys), 2025 Oil on cradled panel, 30x30cm £450



Sensational Life (Katherine Mansfield), 2024 Oil on paper, Framed, 30x42cm £450



Spell, 2022 Ink & acrylic on paper, Framed, 28x40.5cm £450

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Very Free, (Nusch Eluard), 2024 Acrylic & ink on paper, Framed, 40.5x28cm £450



Yellow Hand, 2024 Monoprint acrylic, ink & watercolour on paper, Framed, 29.5x20.5cm £380



Missing, (Adrienne Fidelin), 2024 Oil on gesso panel, Framed, 20.5x20.5m £400



Good Morning Midnight (Jean Rhys), 2025 Oil on board, Framed, 25x30cm £420



In Profile (Ben Nicholson), 2024 Oil on ply panel, Framed, 17.5x17.5cm £220



A Love Supreme, (Lee Miller), 2024 Watercolour & acrylic on paper Framed, 29.5x20.5cm £380



The Sea, The Sea (Daphne Du Maurier), 2024 Oil on tracing paper laid over paper, Framed, 42x30cm £450



At Work (Barbara Hepworth), 2023 Ink & watercolour on paper, Framed, 14.8x10.5cm £150