

For immediate release:



Hugging the Children (2021)
Acrylic on canvas, 102 x 102 cm

Anita Klein: Together

1 May - 4 July 2021

Watts Contemporary Gallery

Watts Contemporary Gallery in partnership with Eames Fine Art is pleased to present a new exhibition of work by Anita Klein, widely regarded as one of Britain's finest contemporary artists and printmakers.

Marking the first exhibition following the reopening of Watts Contemporary Gallery on 1 May, *Together* brings together more than 60 works by Anita Klein, spanning painting, prints and works on paper, including a number of works exhibited for the first time. As the title reflects, this exhibition explores Klein's response to the last year and the joy of coming together again with family and friends. As Klein states, 'The pandemic changed all of our lives, making my obsession with capturing what I would miss if my ordinary life were somehow taken away, relevant to everyone. My work is a visual diary and a way of counting my blessings, especially for family, friends and intimate relationships. This

past year 'what I would miss' has been thrown into sharp focus as 'what I am missing' - closeness to my grown-up children and grandchildren in particular. *Together* is an exhibition about that closeness that we treasure and previously took for granted, as we all take a few tentative steps back into normality'.

Anita Klein (b.1960) studied at Chelsea School of Art and the Slade School of Art, where she was awarded the Henrique Scholarship in 1982 and 1983. Anita was elected Associate of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers in 1992, Fellow in 1995 and served as President of the Society from 2003-2006. Klein has exhibited internationally, including at the ICA and Royal Academy in London. Her works are held in many major collections, including the British Museum and Arts Council England. She was awarded Printmaker of the Year at the 2020 Printfest International Festival of Printmaking.

Known for her confident use of line, dazzling colour palette and poignant subject matter, Klein explores the humour and beauty of the everyday. Describing her works as a 'visual diary', she captures personal celebrations, from observations of motherhood to the joy of friendship, creating images and memories that are universally understood.

Work selected for *Together* includes a number of new works made this year, including *Hugging the Children* (2021) and *The Photo Album* (2021), two large-scale paintings about the intimacy of touch. Klein recalls 'I have always kept physical family photo albums. My eldest granddaughter Betty has recently shown an interest in these and likes to look through the one featuring herself as a baby. It is a lovely moment of closeness with her, to show her that her mother was also a baby once!' Other works are about the joy of reunion after time apart, such as *Scooting by the River* (2021), which Klein says is inspired by the 'wonder of meeting up outside once it became legal'. Demonstrating the breadth of her practice, the exhibition also includes works on paper and prints, for which Klein has become particularly well known. This includes a series of 'lockdown linos' capturing Klein's 'thankfulness for joy' - busy tableaus of family members, eating around the kitchen table, celebrating a birthday or chatting whilst children play in the background. Each work is beautifully considered, brimming with warmth and tells a story about the togetherness we have all been longing for this year.

Anita Kein says of the exhibition:

'All these works are precious to me. They are fleeting reminders of moments and memories I've shared with my children and grandchildren, and my incredible good fortune to be able to share in them. The show is a celebration of what makes me happy and I hope it encourages visitors to be reminded of their own treasured relationships'.

Rebecca Eames, Director of Eames Fine Art, states:

'We have been working with Anita Klein for over 20 years and our first ever exhibition was a show of her work in Guildford. Having hosted exhibitions of Klein's work all over the UK and Europe, it's so enjoyable to take her work to different venues and new audiences. The reaction we receive is always so positive and welcoming. We're delighted to be working with Watts Contemporary Gallery this summer - it is such a beautiful space in a wonderful location. It really feels like this is the perfect time and place for this particular exhibition, focusing on coming together again and relishing the company of loved ones and friends'.

Alistair Burtenshaw, Director of Watts Gallery Trust, says:

'It is an honour to welcome Anita Klein for her first solo exhibition at Watts Contemporary Gallery. The theme of this exhibition feels particularly poignant as we reopen the gallery and look forward to welcoming visitors back to Watts Gallery - Artists' Village. At the heart of our ethos is Art for All, inviting everyone to have access to art and providing creative opportunities for the most vulnerable and socially excluded groups. We are incredibly grateful that through the sale of Anita Klein's work, we can continue this mission'.

Anita Klein: Together opens at Watts Contemporary Gallery on 1 May and runs until 4 July 2021. Works include paintings, works on paper and prints and can be ordered directly from the gallery or online. Prices start at £96.00. All works are available to purchase online through the Watts Gallery Shop wattsgallery.org.uk/visit/shop/.

Proceeds from Watts Contemporary Gallery exhibitions support Watts Gallery Trust's [Art for All learning programme](#), transforming lives through art.

Exhibition Event

In Conversation: Anita Klein, Vincent Eames & Alistair Burtenshaw

Thursday 10 June 2021, 6-7.30pm

£10 | Friends £9

Online via Zoom

To celebrate her exhibition *Together* at Watts Contemporary Gallery, renowned artist and printmaker Anita Klein will be joined by Vincent Eames (Director of Eames Fine Art) and Alistair Burtenshaw (Director of Watts Gallery Trust) to reflect on how the pandemic has strengthened the themes of intimacy, togetherness and joy in her works. Reflecting on themes of family and friendship and the beauty of everyday life, this special event will give an insight into one of Britain's finest artists and printmakers of the modern age.

For further information:

www.wattsgallery.org.uk

Twitter @WattsGallery

Instagram @wattsgallery

Facebook /wattsgalleryartistsvillage

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For further press information:

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Notes to Editors

About Anita Klein

Anita Klein (b.1960) was born in Sydney, Australia, before moving to England at the age of 11. She studied at Chelsea School of Art and the Slade School of Art, where she awarded the Henrique Scholarship in 1982 and 1983. Anita was elected Associate of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers in 1992, Fellow in 1995 and served as President of the Society from 2003-2006. Klein has exhibited internationally, including at the ICA and Royal Academy in London. Her works are held in many major collections, including

the British Museum and Arts Council England. She was awarded Printmaker of the Year at the 2020 Printfest International Festival of Printmaking.

Anita Klein's intimate, life affirming works explore the humour and beauty of everyday life. An archive of personal celebrations, from observations of motherhood to the joy of friendship, Klein's works are charismatic, warm and poignant. She is one of Britain's finest and most prominent artists and printmakers of the 21st century.

@anitakleinart | anitaklein.com | anitaklein.co.uk

About Eames Fine Art

Eames Fine Art specialises in original prints and painting by Modern and contemporary masters.

They also publish editions by established and emerging artist printmakers. Owned and directed by Vincent and Rebecca Eames, Eames Fine Art began life as The Fine Art Partnership in 2004 before being incorporated by Eames Fine Art Ltd in 2013. Its studio in Bermondsey houses a vast collection of prints and paintings and is open to clients by appointment. They also host many events at the studio, such as artist-led discussion, book launches and new edition previews. In May 2013, Eames Fine Art opened their central London Gallery on Bermondsey Street in the London Bridge Quarter. They represent many artists including Pablo Picasso, Norman Ackroyd, Joan Miró, Howard Hodgkin, Marc Chagall, Henry Moore and many others.

Eames Fine Art have represented Anita Klein for over 20 years and this exhibition is presented in partnership with them.

@eamesfineart | eamesfineart.com/

Watts Gallery – Artists' Village

George Frederic Watts OM RA (1817–1904) was widely considered to be the greatest painter of the Victorian age. He became the first living artist to have a solo exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and the artist's donation of paintings made

a significant contribution to the founding collections of Tate Britain and the National Portrait Gallery.

In 1890, with his second wife Mary Seton Watts (1849–1938), Watts moved to Compton, a hollow in the Surrey Hills located on the Pilgrims' Way. Together they commissioned a country home and winter studios, Limnerslease, from leading Arts and Crafts architect Ernest George, and from 1891 they resided there. What followed was the creation of a unique Artists' Village, starting with the Grade I-listed Watts Chapel, an Arts and Crafts masterpiece designed by Mary and realised through a community arts project in the last decade of the 19th century. Watts Gallery, the first purpose-built art gallery in the UK dedicated to a single professional artist, opened its doors to the public in 1904. Together with Tate and the National Portrait Gallery, Watts Gallery provides a complete overview of G F Watts's art and aspirations.

Over the course of the 20th century, Watts Gallery – Artists' Village fell into disrepair and was placed on the English Heritage 'At Risk' Register. Thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and many generous donors, Watts Gallery – Artists' Village has been rescued and restored. Today the Gallery, Studios, Chapel and Pottery Buildings attract over 65,000 annual visitors.

Reopening information:

In line with Government guidance Watts Gallery – Artists' Village is currently planning on re-opening the Watts Shop, Tea Shop (takeaways only), Watts Chapel and the grounds (including toilets) on Monday 26 April. Watts Contemporary Gallery, featuring the new exhibition, *Anita Klein: Together* with works of art for sale, will reopen on Saturday 1 May.

Please note dates are subject to change, please check wattsgallery.org.uk for the most up to date news on re-opening prior to your visit. The safety of visitors, volunteers, local community and staff remain top priority. Watts Gallery Trust has a range of safety measures in place to keep everyone safe.

Current exhibition at Watts Gallery - Artists' Village

Art & Action: Making Change in Victorian Britain (open until 23 May 2021)

wattsgallery.org.uk/art-action/

Watts Contemporary Gallery

Open Monday to Sunday, including Bank Holidays

10am - 5pm

Free entry

The Watts Contemporary Gallery exhibition programme provides a unique opportunity for visitors to see and buy contemporary art and craft that resonate with the Arts and Crafts heritage of Watts Gallery – Artists' Village. The Watts Contemporary Gallery is housed in the Pottery Building, formerly a thriving business pioneered by Mary Watts. The Compton Pottery became well known for its large ornamental pots, birdbaths and garden ornaments and famous stockfists included Liberty of London.

Today, all profits raised through Watts Contemporary exhibitions support Art for All, Watts Gallery Trust's learning and outreach programme. Taking inspiration from the founders of Watts Gallery – Artists' Village, each year Art for All has 29,000 participations, enhancing and transforming lives.

Current exhibition at Watts Contemporary Gallery:

In Print: 20/20 Vision (ends 25 April)

wattsgallery.org.uk/whats-on/print-2020-vision/