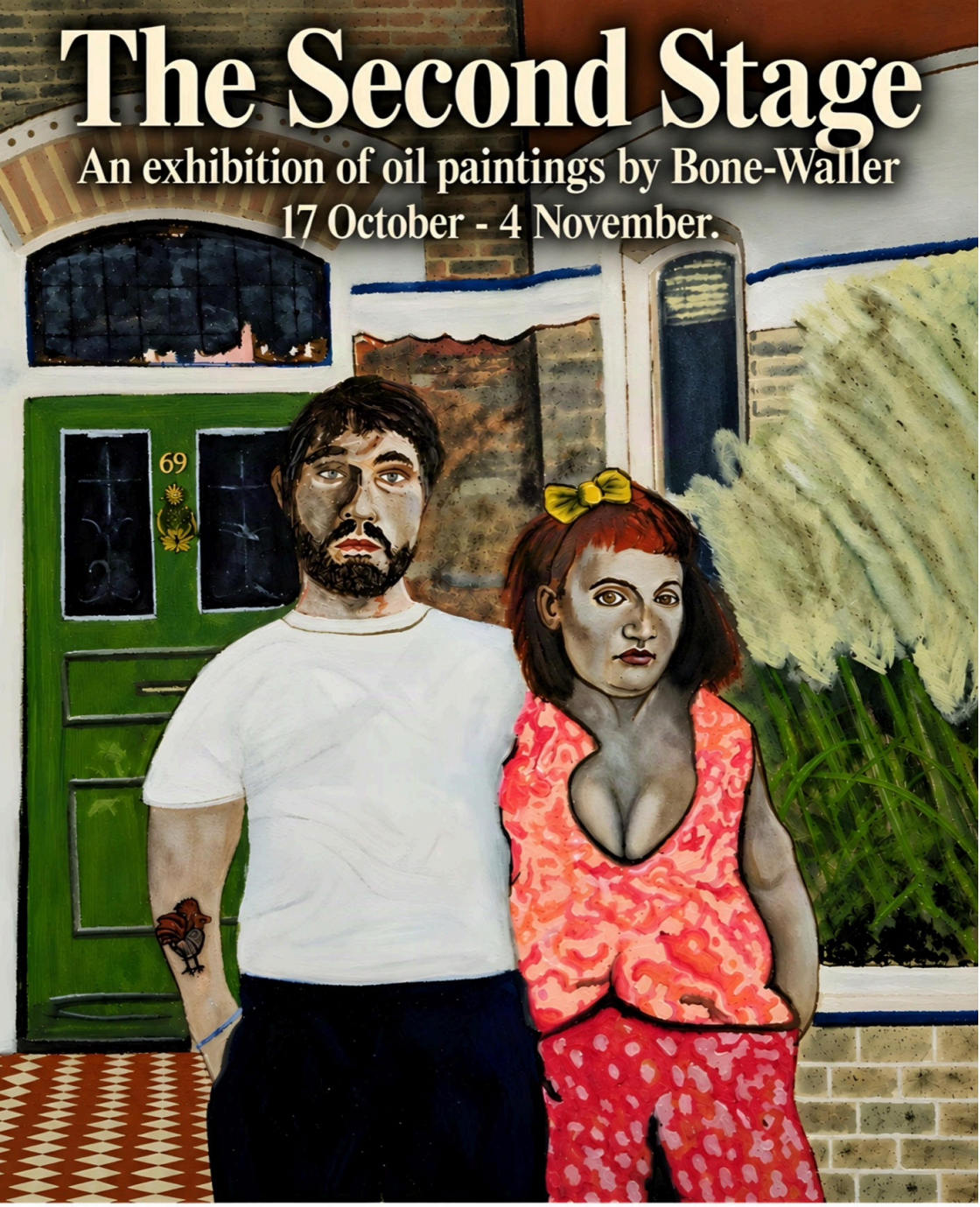
The Second Stage

An exhibition of oil paintings by Bone-Waller

17 October - 4 November.



Opening reception: 17 October 2026 6-9pm

Open Tuesdays - Saturdays 9.30am - 5pm

Special Sunday opening Sunday 1st November
with artist talk at 2pm.

Versus Arts®

114A Lower Clapton Road,
London, E5 0QR

The Second Stage

BONE-WALLER

After a decade as an actor and twelve years as a clown, Bone-Waller began painting in 2019. Leaving the stage, he found in painting ‘another stage upon which his characters could continue to exist’.

His figures stand at crossroads, searching for their place in the world. Imperfect and marked by experience, they share a resilience: they have earned the right to begin again.

A glance, a furrowed brow or the hint of a smile invites us to speculate on their inner lives. Each painting is a fragment of a larger story, its characters’ circumstances tantalisingly ambiguous. Humour is never far away, often in the relationship between image and title.

Bone-Waller imagines them in one vast fictional world, where a character encountered here may reappear there. The performance continues in paint.

Bone-Waller

Bone-Waller came to London 31 years ago to attend LAMDA drama school. What came next was a decade as an actor, followed by 12 years as a clown, alongside periods of writing and making music. He stumbled upon painting in 2019. He is, however, no stranger to a pot of paint and brush in hand: for more than 20 years, he has run his own painting and decorating business.

Mainly self-taught, Bone-Waller attended Turps Banana's correspondence course from 2020 to 2022. His preferred medium is oil on canvas.

In 2025, he made various attempts to broaden his practice beyond his people-dominated work. Participating in a location-inspired exhibition at Bentwaters in Suffolk, Bone-Waller branched out into landscape and concept-based work. Following this project, in September 2025 Bone-Waller attended the Fez Art Residency in Morocco for a week. He is now embarking on a series of paintings inspired by his visit.

South London swingers 01

2023 · Oil on canvas · 91.4 × 61 cm

Cushion as a shield 02

2025 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm

I've only had a few ales 03

2023 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm

Diplomatic relations on London night bus 04

2026 · Oil on canvas · 91.4 × 61 cm

Surprised and shocked to have stumbled upon Auntie Pat's picture profile on Tinder 05

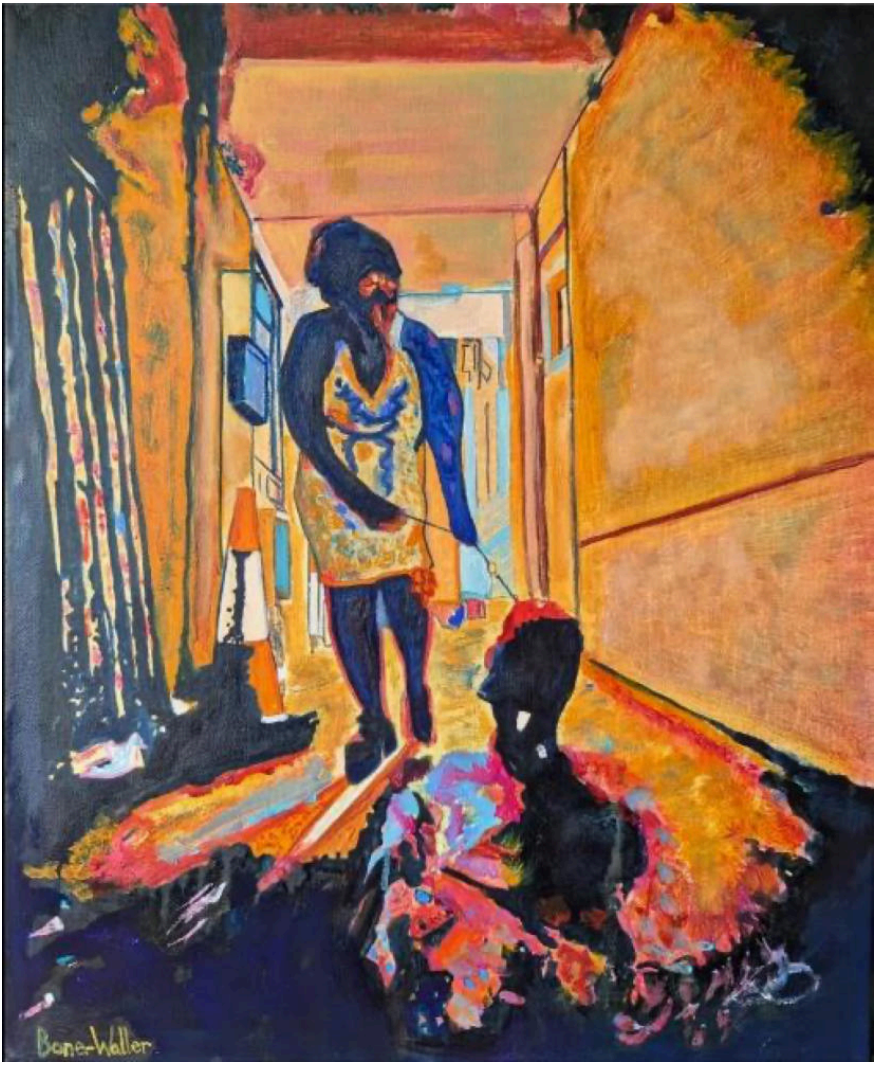
2026 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm

Philosophy of Jazz 06

2025 · Oil on canvas · 30 × 40 cm

Master of the carousel 07

2020 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm

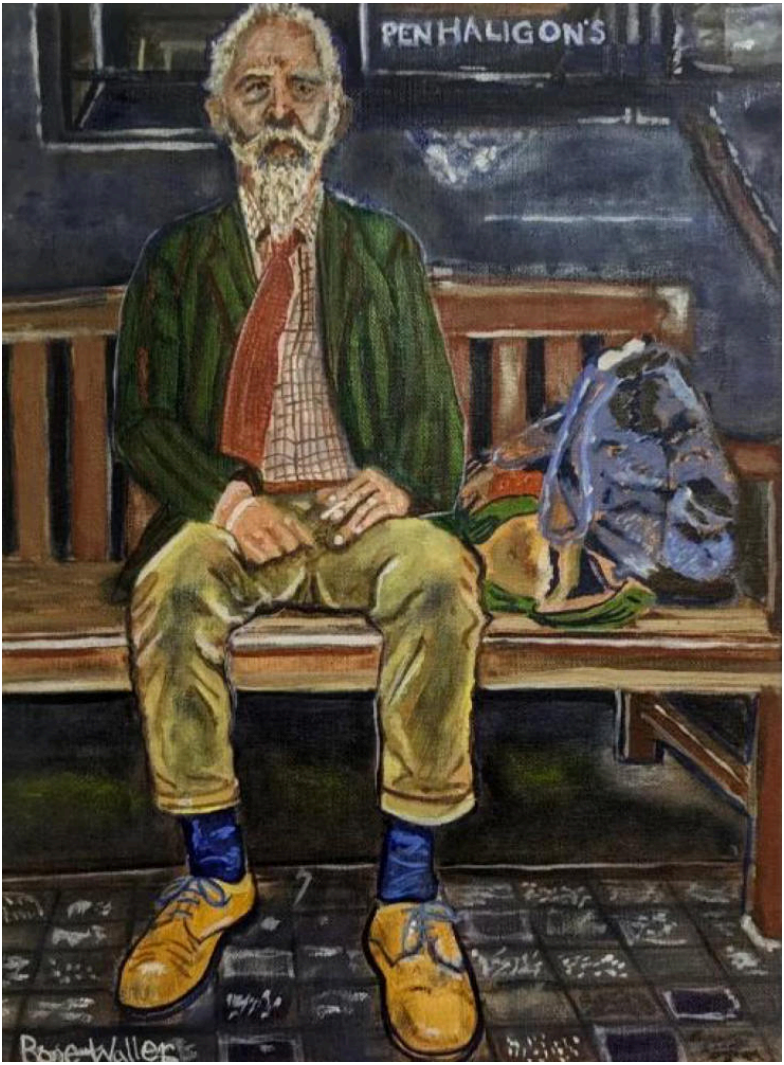


The dog-walk, the cut-through and the demon on the floor 08

2026 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm

This bag is a keeper 09

2025 · Oil on canvas · 30 × 40 cm



Wildman at Penhaligans 10

2023 · Oil on canvas · 30 × 40 cm

Berlin nightclub's need you 11

2024 · Oil on canvas · 61 × 61 cm

Joanna Le Fey 12

2026 · Oil on canvas · 30 × 40 cm

Frau Nactnebel 13

2023 · Oil on canvas · 30 × 40 cm

Madame Popova 14

2023 · Oil on canvas · 30 × 40 cm

Christopher Churlish 15

2020 · Oil on canvas · 36 × 46 cm

Happy hour 16

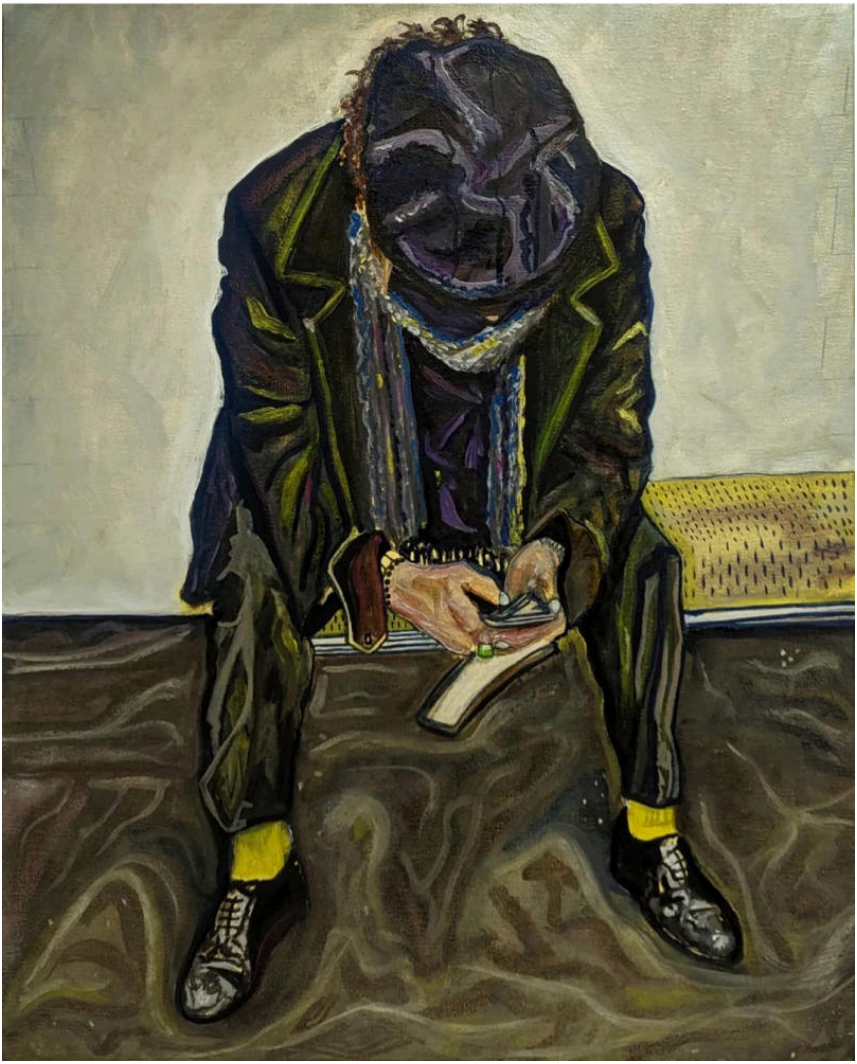
2023 · Oil on canvas · 61 × 61 cm

Backstage at The Cherry Orchard 17

2021 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm

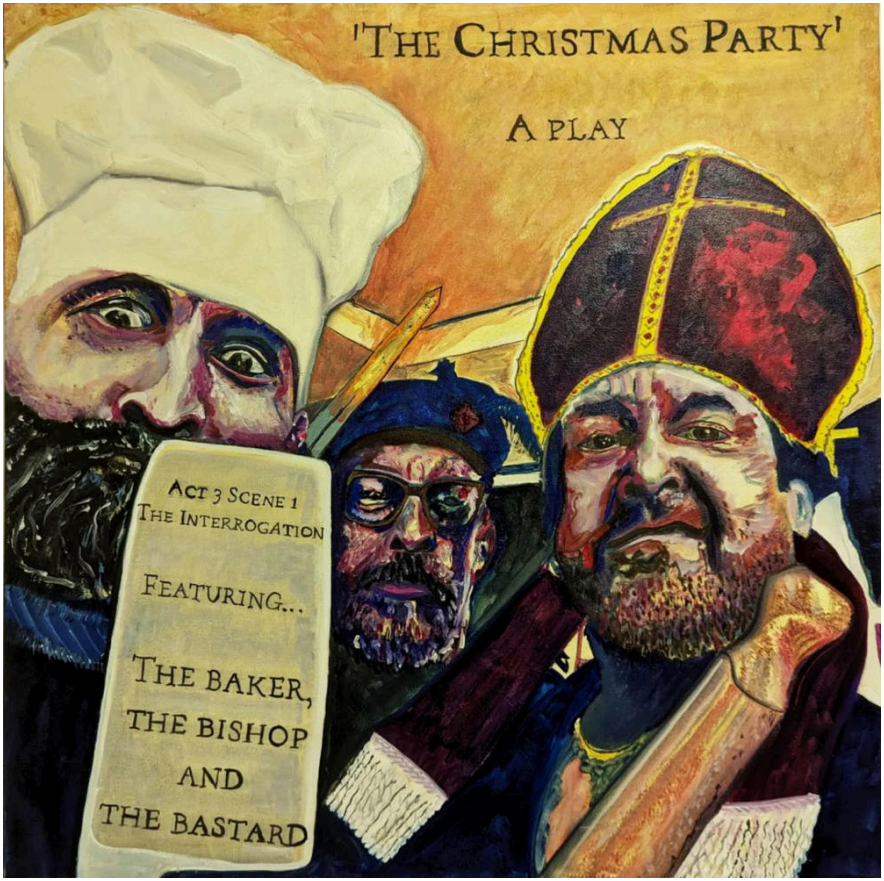
A season of Russian plays 18

2023 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm



That yellow-socked rogue 19

2023 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm



The Christmas Party 20

2022 · Oil on canvas · 61 × 61 cm

Don't worry, we're from the village 21

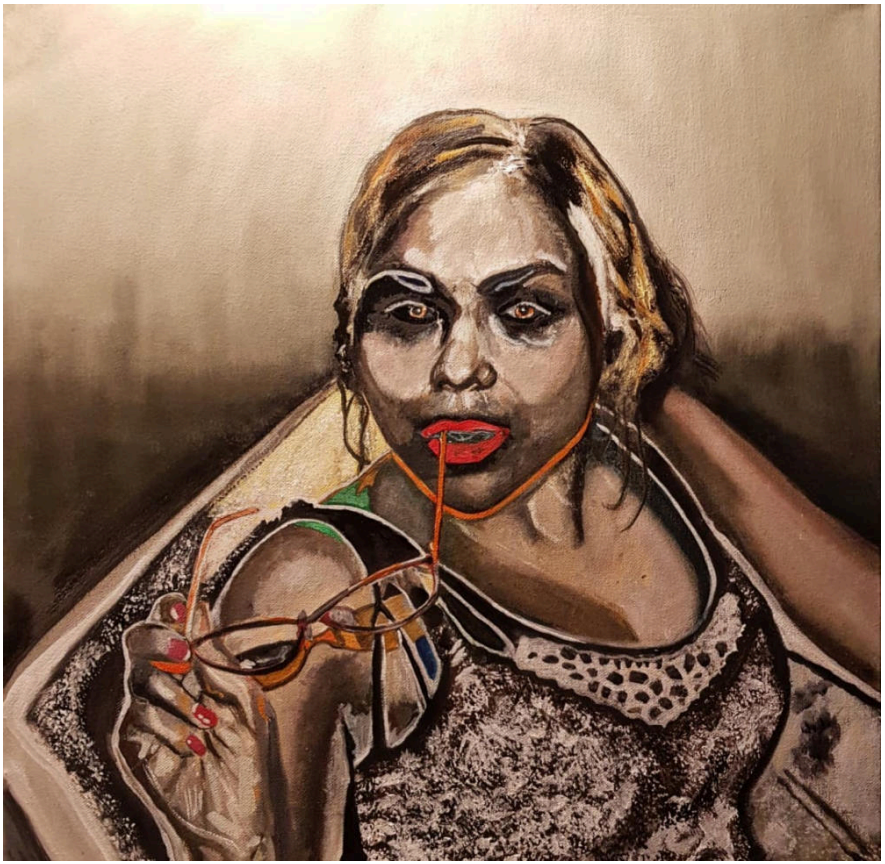
2023 · Oil on canvas · 61 × 61 cm

‘We ain’t no oil paintings,’ said the clowns 22

2022 · Oil on canvas · 60 × 80 cm

Dinner for one again 23

2022 · Oil on canvas · 60 × 42 cm

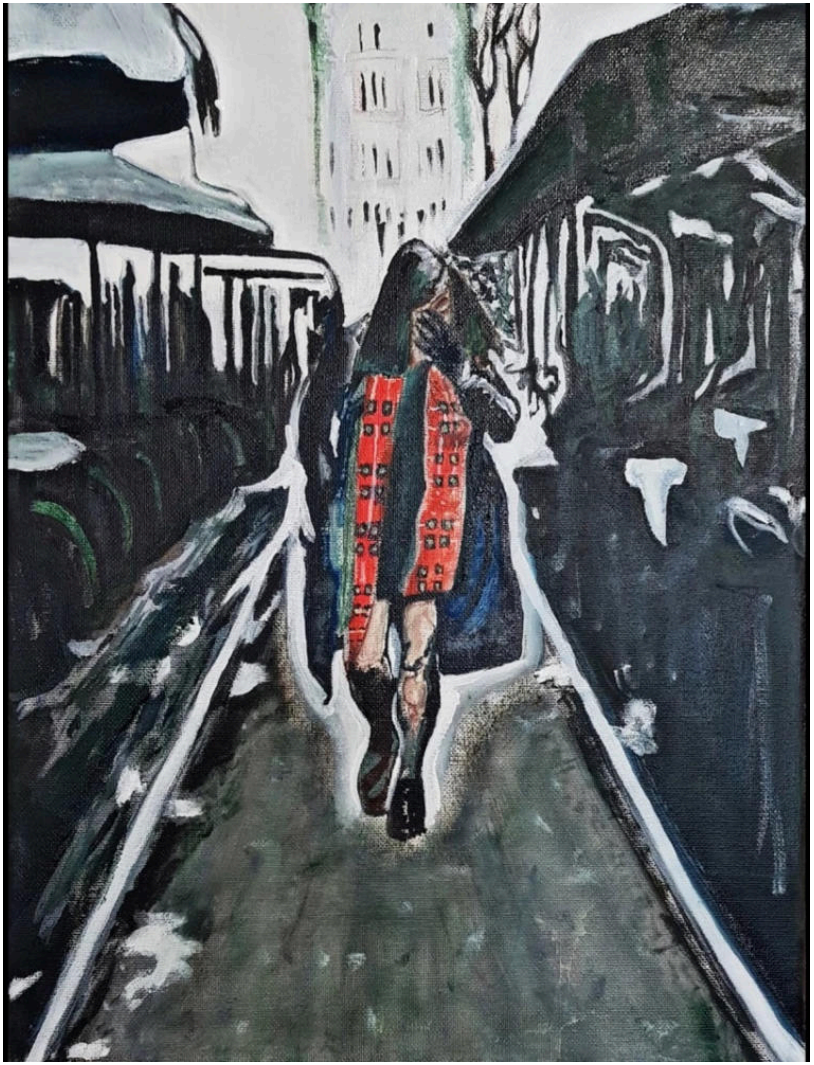


The dark side of the mirror 24

2021 · Oil on canvas · 50 × 50 cm

The Pasty shop girls 25

2021 · Oil on canvas · 55.9 × 45.7 cm

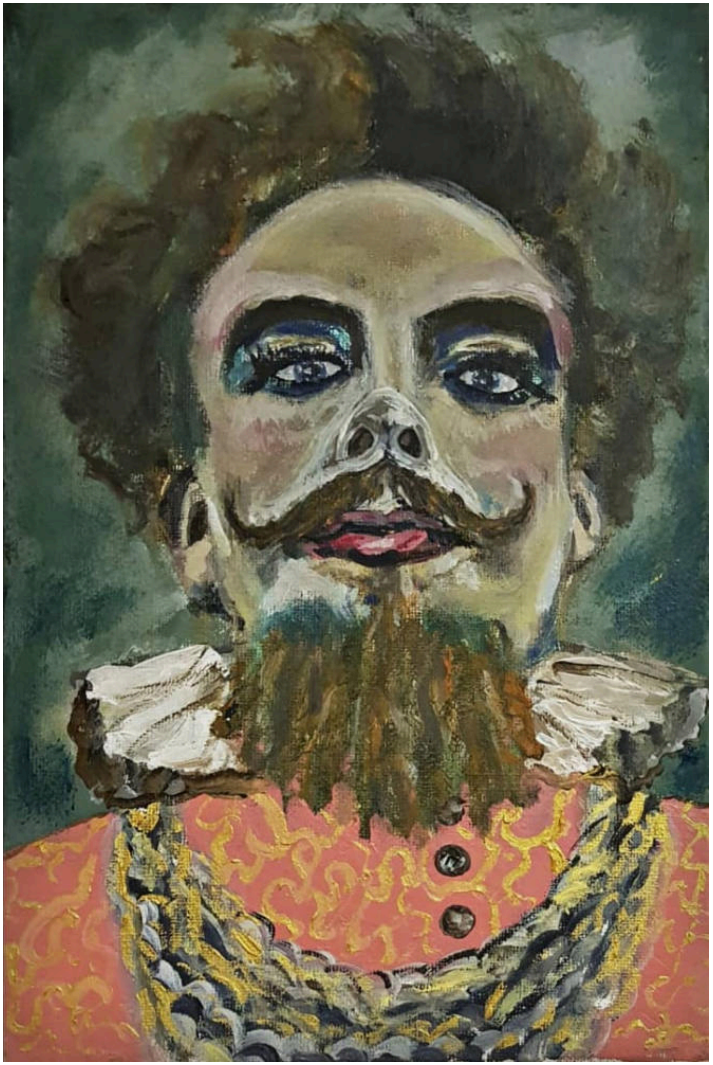


The desire to remain anonymous, even in dreams 26

2021 · Oil on canvas · 30 × 40 cm

I love you 27

2021 · Oil on canvas · 60 × 60 cm



Sir Willoughby Foppinton - keeper of the privies 28

2021 · Oil on canvas · 29.9 × 19.9 cm

Works to scale

All works shown at the same scale (1:20), in the order of the plates.

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

09

10

11

12

13

14

1 m

Works to scale, continued (1:20)

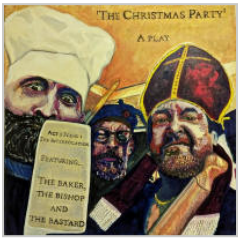
15

16

17

18

19



20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

1 m

List of works

All works oil on canvas. Enquiries: Versus Arts.

01	*South London swingers*, 2023	91.4 × 61 cm	£1,450
02	*Cushion as a shield*, 2025	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£1,200
03	*I've only had a few ales*, 2023	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£1,100
04	*Diplomatic relations on London night bus*, 2026	91.4 × 61 cm	£1,450
05	*Surprised and shocked to have stumbled upon Auntie Pat's picture profile on Tinder*, 2026	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£900
06	*Philosophy of Jazz*, 2025	30 × 40 cm	£600
07	*Master of the carousel*, 2020	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£700
08	*The dog-walk, the cut-through and the demon on the floor*, 2026	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£700
09	*This bag is a keeper*, 2025	30 × 40 cm	£650
10	*Wildman at Penhaligans*, 2023	30 × 40 cm	£550
11	*Berlin nightclub's need you*, 2024	61 × 61 cm	£1,000
12	*Joanna Le Fey*, 2026	30 × 40 cm	£450
13	*Frau Nactnebel*, 2023	30 × 40 cm	£500
14	*Madame Popova*, 2023	30 × 40 cm	£450
15	*Christopher Churlish*, 2020	36 × 46 cm	£600
16	*Happy hour*, 2023	61 × 61 cm	£950
17	*Backstage at The Cherry Orchard*, 2021	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£750
18	*A season of Russian plays*, 2023	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£750
19	*That yellow-socked rogue*, 2023	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£775
20	*The Christmas Party*, 2022	61 × 61 cm	£1,150
21	*Don't worry, we're from the village*, 2023	61 × 61 cm	£1,150
22	*'We ain't no oil paintings,' said the clowns*, 2022	60 × 80 cm	£1,000
23	*Dinner for one again*, 2022	60 × 42 cm	£900
24	*The dark side of the mirror*, 2021	50 × 50 cm	£1,200
25	*The Pasty shop girls*, 2021	55.9 × 45.7 cm	£950
26	*The desire to remain anonymous, even in dreams*, 2021	30 × 40 cm	£600
27	*I love you*, 2021	60 × 60 cm	£1,000
28	*Sir Willoughby Foppinton - keeper of the privies*, 2021	29.9 × 19.9 cm	£375

BONE-WALLER · THE SECOND STAGE

Published on the occasion of the exhibition *The Second Stage*, Versus Arts, London, 17 October – 4 November 2026.

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