

CAMPOLI PRESTI

Press Release

Penny Goring
Escape from Blood Castle
14 March - 18 April 2020
Campoli Presti, Paris

Campoli Presti is pleased to present *Escape from Blood Castle*, Penny Goring's first exhibition with the gallery. A series of drawings, paintings, sculptures and videos respond to personal and universal traumas such as grief, violence, addiction, ageing, chronic pain and fear, increasingly exacerbated by the incessant expansion of economic relations into our private realm. The exhibition title evokes a "solve it yourself" puzzle adventure book from the 80s and the impossibility to think our experiences outside capitalist terms.

Goring's drawings and paintings are based on autobiographical experiences yet reference symbolist traditions within her own gloomy, girlish universe. Her "Art Hell" drawings expand on recurrent motifs such as malevolent landscapes, anthropomorphic flowers, scatological weeping and the double figure of Penny and Amelia, an ex-lover who died young from a heroin overdose. In her paintings, precision is key: flat backgrounds become fields of colour, trapping dismembered or distorted female figures at various stages of attempted escape.

Made with fabric and vintage thread, all sewn by hand, Goring's doll sculptures reference, amongst other things, children's imagery and our attachment to transitional objects. The dolls of *Escape from Blood Castle* are manifestly marked by their damage, amputation, and mending, referencing the body as a receptacle and target for trauma and suffering.

The poem *Escape from Blood Castle* continues Goring's raw, confrontational style, and operates as a marker for the exhibition itself. The juxtaposition between the text, the videos, the works' titles and their reappearing motifs recall the arrangement of her works online, in which all her media perform without hierarchies, resisting strategy.

Penny Goring (born 1962 in London, UK) graduated in 1994 from Kingston School of Art in London with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art (Painting). Goring makes drawings, paintings, sculptures, videos, and poems that access recurring personal trauma visions, and by layering these with grief, anxiety, imagination and rage, the subsequent invented mythologies become explorations of the contemporary state of emergency – where violence is commonplace, structural, intimate, where loss of freedoms is forgotten or keenly lamented, and there is no rescue or escape. Goring has exhibited at, amongst others, ICA, London; Tate St. Ives; Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw; South London Gallery and Arcadia Missa, London. Goring lives and works in London.

For further information please contact Elena De Leo at elena@campolipresti.com

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Escape from Blood Castle

by Penny Goring

Two lovers Escape from Blood Castle, there is no Escape from Blood Castle, no
Escape from Confinement or Control, or Eternity, Opium, Poison, or or or
LUCKY IN AN UNLUCKY WAY.

Thrill to the Blah Blah Blah anything, look to the Stars and the Mud, try
Disappearing, pray to be Rescued, or profoundly Forgotten, or or or
GROVELLING FOR THE VERY SLIM CHANCE.

Crawl into Ruined old age, Confess petty Crimes in the garden, bolt for your
Freedom while limping, or run with your broken Heart thumping, or or or
SHARP POINTY STICKS IN YOUR EYES.

The mechanisms of Safety are Weaponised, every process designed to do Harm,
no Secret corners to huddle, or failing to Cope, or extreme Naked yoga, or or or
LAUGHING IN AN UNLUCKY WAY.

upside--down
kissing your fingers
plague bones
it hasn't been fun for ages
your face on swarm girl
kitchen sinking
red hand red hand grey sky
meets your ankles
we break your legs and carry you to the block
on a very ornate chair
a very ornate chair stuffed with saint's hair
and your fingernails
because you asked for it
because the crowd wants it
because it was decreed
in our walls
the ghost of scratching susan
told us
her lies are the greatest
this is what she says:
blah blah blah anything
my poor darling, anything.

STORM FRUIT
PANIC CELL
BLOSSOM BITCH
BLOOD SHOW

GHOST TOURIST
DEVIL SCAMMER
FIBBING DRIVER
KNIFE BUZZ

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HIP FLASK
BIGGER BIJOUX
MERCY FUCKER
BAG BIRD

GOLDEN BOLLOCKS
FUTURE BACON
ABSTRACT GAMBLE
CAPS LOCK

DARKER MATTER
DEEPER LOTION
TOXIC CIRCUS
DEATH TOLL

SEE-THROUGH NYLON
DISCO STRIPPER
FEVER FLOWERS
BOMB DROP

BLOODY CASTLE
DOLLY MOTION
SUGAR WIDOW
CLOCK STOP

BLAH BLAH BLAH ANYTHING:
POISON ON YOUR TONGUE