

Renee Spierdijk *Project Abstract*

For the past 6 years, Renee's paintings have been inspired by images of girls and women originating from photographs, some of which were taken by her but mostly drawn from found sources. The portraits she paints are not from life but from the image of life as captured in a moment in time by the photographer. She chooses portraits of children who are posed in formal clothes and settings frequently holding or surrounded by political or religious artifacts. Renee is interested in the process of domestication and conditioning which the subjects seem subjected to and in which they appear patient, content or quietly mutinous as they wait and hope to become themselves.

As a visiting artist at the IWA, Renee proposes to continue the exploration of her subject matter and will make use of the wonderful facilities at The Brodsky Center extending her knowledge of printmaking as well as broadening her ability to incorporate photography and printed text in her work. She is very much looking forward to working as part of an artistic community creating new work and possibly collaborating with other artists towards a joint project. Renee will conduct a lecture about her work while in residence at Rutgers

Biography

Renee was born in 1957 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In 1977 she came to England to become an au pair and to study Art at the Camden Institute in London. In 1979 she was accepted to the Byam Shaw School of Art in London where she received a BA with distinction and has practiced as an artist/ lecturer and exhibited for many years in and around London. In 1987, she finished the 1st year MA fine Art course at Goldsmith's College London. In 1988 her first daughter Cornelia was born. In 1990 her family moved to Cambridge where her second daughter Saskia was born. In 1996 she became Joint Head of Art at King's College Choir School Cambridge where she has been working part time.

From 1990 she has been involved in residencies in schools in and around Cambridge, UK set up after school and holiday Art facilities for children and helped organize Cambridge Open Studio's with distribution and workshops. Renee has lectured about her work at Cambridge university and London Art schools. She is a member of the Artworkers Guild and has exhibited extensively in England and The Netherlands.

Selected Exhibitions:

- 1983 *New Contemporaries*, ICA London
- 1986 John Players Portrait Award National Portrait Gallery, London
- 1989 Dutch Contemporary Art in Britain, Knapp Gallery Regents Park London
- 1990 *Women's view*, Heffer's Gallery, Cambridge
- 1992 BP Portrait Award National portrait Gallery, London
- 1994 *Two Women*, Churchill College, Cambridge
- 1999 Solo Exhibition, The Vest Cultural Centre, Alkmaar Holland
- 2000 Eastern Open, First Prize, King's Lynn, UK
- 2005 Solo Exhibition, The Wall Gallery, Ely, UK
- 2008-09 Solo Exhibition, St Peter's Church, Cambridge
- 2010 Lynn Painterv Stainers prize, London
- 2011 *From Womb to World*, Clare Hall, supported by the Wellcome Foundation, Cambridge
- 2011 Solo exhibition at Clare Hall Cambridge Nov/Dec