

Mon 13th MAY 2019
Press release: Inspired by #MeToo,
Looking at You exhibition
opens in Chadlington for Artweeks



Jill Colchester, a contemporary artist and tutor at Abingdon and Witney College in Chipping Norton and Kidlington, prepares to show her latest body of work **Looking At You** at her forthcoming new Artweeks exhibition (venue 433, 18th-27th May).

Previously on show in Berlin, the figures in the drawings in this exhibition hold the viewers gaze which, given the contemporary preoccupation with consent, pose the question whether the look invites you in, whether it is confrontational or is she simply looking back.

‘Historically the female model was passive, their eyes cast down, non-confrontational. In a few paintings, however, like Manet's *Olympia* and Goya's *The Naked Maja*, the model looks directly at the viewer. These were shocking for their time.’

‘**Looking At You** is pertinent to the question of consent today,’ she explains. ‘The series is considering the body-language messages young people give out. The look given.’

As a trained dancer Jill is particularly drawn to the lightness of being, of fleeting movement and the grace, of dancers and tries to capture this elusive quality with dynamic lines. She works with models who will hold poses for only a brief amount of time before changing to another, and this unknown time constraint causes her to work gesturally and minimally.

Her drawings of these poses are laid over each other, challenging the viewer to see the figure in more than one way in the same drawing.

Jill works from her own studio, employing a model for hour long sessions. She usually draws using anything from chunks of graphite, charcoal, inks, (often using a quill for the unpredictability of line) and pastels. Her drawings often develop into paintings, using acrylic paints.

Looking At You can be seen from 18 – 27 May, (except 20, 21,22 May), in Chadlington, near Chipping Norton. Open 12 – 5pm.

www.jillcolchester.com

Please find a few images attached - the first being of the artist at work. I have not included any full length nudes.

Oxfordshire Artweeks www.artweeks.org 4th-27th May 2019

The Artweeks festival is Oxfordshire's largest visual arts festival and the UK's oldest and biggest Open Studios event. It is a three-week not-for-profit celebration in May each year of the county's artistic and creative talent encompassing the visual arts in their broadest sense. Around 1000 artists open the doors to their homes and studios and welcome the public to see their creations and watch them work –over 100,000 people visit Artweeks exhibitions each year and a million pounds of art changes hands!

Further press information, area-specific details within Oxfordshire, copy written to a word count, and/or high res images, contact **Esther Lafferty** 01367 242498 or 07715 640228 esther@artweeks.org

[For further information and photo opps about Looking At You](#)

Jill Colchester Contemporary Fine Artist.

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