

# LEXI STRAUSS

## EDUCATION

2012–14 MA Painting, Royal College of Art, London.

2009–11 BA (Hons) Fine Art (First), Hereford College of Art.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS/ PERFORMANCES

2026 Aunty Show and Nana Subversive Share their Biscuits (with Lucy Hopkins). Soho Theatre, London.

2026 Solo exhibition. Stryx Gallery, Birmingham.

2026 Cheese Dream, Installation event/performance, Hereford Museum and Art Gallery.

2024 Bus Shelter Residency, Stryx Gallery.

2023 An Audience with the Worm, Blundabus, Edinburgh Festival.

2022 The Lady Doctors, Night–bus to Nowhere, Edinburgh Festival and Malvern Cube.

2021 Soiled and Wagazzled, Feast Festival.

2016 The Oath of The Great Order of Emancipists. Birmingham University.

2013 Empty Chairs, The Institute of Art and Ideas– Hay Festival, Hay on Wye.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Inside the Playroom, Stryx Gallery, Birmingham

2024

Conversation Not Spectacle, The Women's Art Collection, Cambridge.

2023

Parent/Artist, Air Gallery, Manchester.

2023

ReProduce, Air Gallery, Manchester.

2022

Manchester Contemporary curated by Meter Room.

2022

Myth Making and Self Fashioning, The Women's Art Collection– Guest Museum at the London Art Fair.

2022

A Woman's Place is Everywhere, Boa Swindler and Infinity Bunce, Cello Factory, London.

2021

'Underground'– performance and film installation, Feast Festival, Malvern Cube.

2022

Studio Voltaire diversions, online performance– Victoria BC, Canada.

2020

Everything Happening, All at Once, 404space, Worcester.

2020

Emily Warner, FLAP– Experiments in Togetherness Through Listening.

2019

Emily Warner, FLAP– Experiments in Togetherness Through Listening, Birmingham.

2019

Division of Labour at Paradise Works, Salford.

2018

M(others) Art Tour, New Hall Art Collection, Cambridge University.

2017

New voices, new conversations, Recent acquisitions of the New Hall Art Collection, Cambridge University.

Storyboard, Lubmirov/ Angus Hughes Gallery, London.

Nasty Women, Cambridge Literary Festival, curated by Eliza Gluckman.

Real Lives, Painted Pictures, The Cut, Halesworth.

2016

Working from Home, AMP Gallery, London.

On the Shore Alone at Night, Chalton Gallery, London.

Art Car Boot Fair (with Huguenot Editions), London.

Real Lives, Painted Pictures, Crypt Gallery, London.

Oriel Davis Open, Newtown, Wales.

2015

Random Selection, Division of Labour, London and Manchester Contemporary.

Salon, Waterhall Gallery, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Sluice (Day and Gluckman) London.

Material Tension, Collyer and Bristow Gallery, London.

2014

A Union of Voices. Horatio Junior Gallery, London.

Beryl, Neat 14– Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

The Twelve Apostles as Babies, RCA Degree show, London.

2013

Pntg Nov, Henry Moore Gallery, London.

REACT, Dilston Grove Gallery, London.

Diseased Brethren Art Licks– at Asylum, London.

2012

Candid arts, Universitat der Kunste, Berlin.

Ludlow Open, Ludlow.

## OTHER PERFORMANCES/ SCREENINGS/ WRITING

2025

'Quing' with Lucy Hopkins. An interactive clown performance exploring our relationship with power, Wardrobe Theatre, Bristol and Feast Festival, Malvern.

2024–25

Triple Goddess with Annie Bashford and Lucy Hopkins. Interactive clown performance exploring phases of the female experience. Knockangorrach and Shambabla Festivals.

2023

Lady Doctors– The Human Fountain of Milk. Feast Festival.

An Audience with the Worm, Blundabus, Edinburgh Festival.

Clown Choir (with Lucy Hopkins) Various happenings across the UK, including Edinburgh Fringe.

2022

The Lady Doctors – Art Cabaret performances, Night–bus to Nowhere at Edinburgh Fringe Festival and at Malvern Cube.

2021

'Underground', performance and film installation, Feast Festival, Malvern Cube.

2021

Studio Voltaire diversions, Victoria BC, Canada

2017

Summer Salon, Lubmirov/ Angus Hughes Gallery, London

2017

Domino Open Film Screening, The Shoe Factory Social Club, Norwich

2016

Ghost Sheet Interviews, AMP Gallery, London

Jamboree, Plymouth Arts centre

2014

CINARS Performing Arts Biennale, Montreal

2014

Neat 14. Verbatim performances. Nottingham

2013

Womens Werk, Division of Labour. Worcester Art Gallery

## AWARDS AND PRIZES

2020–2021

Elmley Foundation grant for personal research.

2018–19

Recipient of a DYCP grant from the Arts Council, England.

2015

Catlin Art Prize (panel– Justin Hammond, Aaron Cezar, Charlotte Schepke, George

Vasey).

2014

Saatchi New Sensations– nominated

John Moores painting prize– shortlisted (panel– Chantal Joffe, Tom Benson, Zeng Fanzhi, Tim Marlow and Lynette Yiadom–Boakye).

Jerwood drawing prize– shortlisted (panel– Gavin Delahunty, Dr Janet McKenzie and Alison Wilding).

Exeter Contemporary Open– Public Choice award, Pheonix Arts Centre (panel– Matt Burrows, Ceri Hand, David Shrigley).

2013

New Contemporaries– shortlisted, ICA (panel– Ryan Gander, Chantal Joffe and Nathaniel Mellors).

Anthology 2013, Charlie Smith Gallery, London (panel– Ian Davenport, Zavier Ellis, H  l  ne Gu  rin, Ceri Hand, Max Presneill). W–ca Open– highly commended, Worcester Art Gallery (panel– Juneau projects, Meadow Arts, Nada Prija and Gavin Wade).

Derwent Drawing Prize, Mall Galleries, London (panel– Yvonne Crossley, Fisun G  ner and Stephen Farthing).

2012

Windsor and Newton scholarship, RCA.

Elmley Foundation Award to study at the RCA.

Hereford Open– overall winner (panel– Andrea McLean and Clare Woods).

## **CURATION**

2026

Cheese Dream, curated installation event/ performance at Hereford Museum and Art Gallery

2023

Clown Choir (with Lucy Hopkins) Various happenings across the UK, including Edinburgh Fringe

2022

The lady Doctors, Comedy cabaret community event. Malvern Cube and Edinburgh Fringe.

2018

In the Middle of Somewhere. Canwood Gallery, Herefordshire (with Tom Nash)

## **FILMS / SELECTED PUBLICATIONS ABOUT PRACTICE**

2024 The Women’s Art Collection, Cambridge University– Short documentary about practice.

2018 Women Can’t Paint: Gender, the Glass Ceiling and Values in Contemporary Art by

Dr Helen Gorill. I.B. Tauris

2017 Real Lives, Painted Pictures – Book accompanying exhibition of same title

2016 Spears Magazine

2016 Birmingham Mail– 21 Leading Young artists in the West Midlands

2015 Studio International filmed interview– <https://vimeo.com/128992151>

2015 Apollo Magazine

2015 Wall Street International

2015 3rd Dimension magazine

2015 Huffington Post

2015 A–N magazine

2015 The Catlin Art Guide

2014 The State of Art, Barehill Publishing

2014 Jerwood Drawing Prize

2014 John Moores Painting Prize

2014 ARTUPDATE

2013 ARC magazine 17.2

2011 Roves and Roames, issue III

## **LECTURING/ WRITING**

2014 to Present– Hereford College of Art. Lecturer BA (Hons) Fine Art.

2023 Coventry University, Fine Art BA. Visiting lecturer

2016 Eastside Projects, Birmingham. Presentation on outcomes of Radical Sabbatical

2016 University of Birmingham. Symposium lecture on Verbatim and Other Reflexive Art Practices to The School of Government and Social Policy

2016 University of Northumbria. Verbatim conference. Provocation on the ‘Politics of Verbatim Practice’

2015 University of Worcester, Film Production BA, lecture and workshop

2015 Eastside Projects, Birmingham. Presentation on practice

2015 Review of British Art Show

<http://tpwm.squarespace.com/artist-development-events/2015/11/17/british-art-show-8-lexi-strauss.html>

2014 Jerwood Space, London. Presentation on practice

2014 John Moores, Walker Gallery, Liverpool. Presentation on art practice

2014 University of Gloucester, Fine Art BA and MA. Lecture and tutorials

2014 Wolverhampton University BA and MA, Fine Art. Lecture and tutorials

## RESIDENCIES AND OTHER PROJECTS

2026

Residency, Stryx Gallery

2024

Bus Shelter residency, Stryx Gallery

2021

Bait Magazine Panel Talk, in association with New Hall Gallery, Cambridge University.

2020

Peep residency at Stryx, Stryx Gallery Online.

2019

Co-organiser- 'A Male Artist is a Contradiction in Terms"- Panel discussion chaired by Eliza Gluckman at Eastside projects

2018-19

Development member of The Ultras, an all-female artists incentive, with Eastside Projects.

2016

Radical Sabbatical, University of Birmingham and Eastside Projects

## COLLECTIONS

The Women's Art Collection, University of Cambridge.

Various private collections.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

I occasionally work as an activist and humanitarian clown with organisations such as Clowns Without Borders.

I have a Level 2 Certificate in Counselling.

As a theatre practitioner prior to my visual arts training, I was a member of various experimental theatre collectives including Signal to Noise (working outside the 4th wall) and Non- Fiction Theatre (pioneering UK verbatim collective in the early 2000's).

## STATEMENT

I explore the complexity of our interactions with belief systems and processes of individuation, combining paintings, performance, and other media with specious, fluid, personal fictions derived both from interviews and imagination. I subliminally weave

works together to explore the idea of individuation and complex human relationships with belief systems. My work tracks the escapism and paradoxical self-segregation that come from disconnection and a distorted desire to belong and seeks answers to heal it. Narratives seeking out absurdity and subversion may hold insightful keys, since truths are often grasped in their transition from nonsense. Thus, subjects within the paintings sometimes appear humanely clown-like, often displaying both a rigid facade and a vulnerable persona.

Paintings are also occasionally ventriliquised to tell stories. Playfully theatrical installations using projections allow objects or subjects within the imagery to breath, speak and sing collectively or as individuals.

Clown/ trickster performance deepens both narrative development and connection with audience, whilst promoting our innately playful natures over the often over rarefied Arts. I feel honoured to work directly with the profundity of laughter, experiencing the postman role of Freud's 'Die Witzige Einkleidung'– the joke as envelope that conceals psychic messages. This seems activist, expanding opportunities for potent metamorphosis of diverse spaces, with audiences beyond art-world contexts.

## VIDEO LINKS

The Women's Art Collection, Cambridge University– short documentary about practice, 2024– <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=377GmObX81Q>

Studio International– short, filmed interview, 2015– <https://vimeo.com/128992151>

## WEBSITE AND EMAIL

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