



Eve Ackroyd (born 1984) is a painter from the UK and lives and works in London.

I seek out stories of female friendships, which I find the most compelling and complex of all relationships. I observe women in film, such as Vera Chytilov's boldly coloured, visually distorted anarchic tales, and Chantal Akerman's real-time observations of women's inner lives. I have also taken idealised forms from a 1970s Allen Jones calendar that hung in my home as a child, which both disturbed and fascinated me.

My mother and her sisters appear in my paintings, specifically my memory of them when I was a child. In bedrooms clothes were exchanged and in kitchens the day-to-day of the domestic world were shared with an ease which made our home seem lighter and unburdened. Their bodies intrigued me, they were as familiar as my mothers, but when together an intimacy weaved between their bodies which intimidated me in its voluptuousness and confidence. Much of my personal iconography is formed from these memories, 80s hairstyles, costume jewellery, triangular bushes, and painted fingernails.

Animals also appear in my work, typically as pets whose faces appear human-like. They observe both viewer and painter, aiming to play and distract. I create these in place of children, their bodies acting as a vessel to express both the exhaustion and joy of parenthood – the animals are both needy and independent. I typically employ dark and saturated colours, a palette which I subconsciously reach for to more honestly express the complex and conflicting feelings of both being a child and a parent.

I draw upon these worlds to create expansive imaginary places, contrasting potent images of my childhood imagination against my adult self, with its conflicting notions of femininity, motherhood and sexual expression. My women are flawed and bright, full of dissatisfactions, depressed but funny, sensual, and single minded. I always want them to be precise, funny and candid.