



The World As Yet Unseen
Women Artists in Conversation with Partou Zia

ON the eve of International Women's Day, Falmouth Art Gallery is delighted to announce its forthcoming exhibition 'The World As Yet Unseen – Women Artists in Conversation with Partou Zia', curated by Dr Penny Florence and Clare Cooper. This will be a significant new exhibition of eminent women artists based in, or connected to, Cornwall, many of whom also knew Partou.

The exhibition reveals a world both intimate and outward looking seen through the eyes of women artists. At the centre are the paintings and poetry of the artist and writer Partou Zia (1958-2008) who was born in Iran but came to England in 1970, settling in Newlyn in 1993. Partou sadly passed away at the height of her artistic career.

In 2003, she was the first recipient of the Porthmeor Studio residency awarded by Tate St Ives in collaboration with the Borlase Smart and John Wells Trust. Her residency culminated in an exhibition at Tate St Ives entitled *Entering the Visionary Zone*. The artist herself has been described as a 'true visionary'.

Partou's unique way of seeing will be displayed alongside works by her contemporaries and influential figures including: Gillian Ayres, Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, Sandra Blow, Eileen Cooper, Tacita Dean, Naomi Frears, Barbara Hepworth, Rose Hilton, Winifred Nicholson, Shirin Neshat, Aimée Parrott, Nina Royle, Veronica Ryan, Devlin Shea, Lucy Stein and Kate Walters.

The exhibition is a collaboration between Dr Penny Florence, Professor Emerita, The Slade School of Fine Art, UCL, Clare Cooper of Art First, London and Falmouth Art Gallery. Penny and Clare have co-curated the show to celebrate the gallery's pleasure in accepting one of Partou's self portraits on long term loan. Penny writes: '*The idea of 'the world as yet unseen' is to invoke both the visionary, which is essential to Partou's work, and the collective vision of significant women artists.*'

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of talks and events including a ‘curators walk and talk’ around the exhibition on Friday 5 April at 11 am and the preview evening on Saturday 6 April 6- 8 pm, both free, all welcome. Partou’s writing will inspire a creative writing workshop led by eminent writers Joanna Kavenna and Ella Frears on Saturday 1 June, followed by an evening panel discussion chaired by Dr Penny Florence (free but booking essential through Falmouth Art Gallery Eventbrite). A film event is also planned. The gallery will also be staging a series of Family Art Workshops inspired by the exhibition on the first Saturday of each month and Tues – Thurs in school holidays, 11 am – 3 pm, free, drop-in, all welcome.

‘The World As Yet Unseen – Women Artists in Conversation with Partou Zia’ can be seen at Falmouth Art Gallery, Cornwall from 6 April – 15 June 2019. The gallery is open from 10 am – 5 pm Monday – Saturday (closed Good Friday), entry is FREE. For more information about the exhibition please visit www.falmouthartgallery.com, call 01326 313 863 or email info@falmouthartgallery.com

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