

**Kate McCrickard: *New Romantics*****Marisol Jacquemot Derode: *Ceramic Counterpoints***

8 March – 29 April 2023

Art First is delighted to present this exhibition by Kate McCrickard, with ceramicist Marisol Jacquemot Derode. Inspired by Parisian life in a post Covid world, McCrickard's urban subjects are vibrant and beautifully observed. *New Romantics* explores scenes from her local cafés and bars or on the streets, where Goths and Punks gather curiously on corners. There are also domestic tableaux depicting family feasts, and imagined scenes based on the artist's fugitive drawings made constantly from moments of real life. In an unusual collaboration, Jacquemot-Derode's gorgeous, sculptural vessels have been created in response to McCrickard's paintings as *Ceramic Counterpoints*.

*'In my paintings I avoid depth of field and look for the balance of an animated line drawn in paint that works like a lariat around and through passages of tone. I often think of Bonnard and his images of people who aren't really doing anything. Mine are active, but his dictum that it is not a matter of painting life, but a matter of giving life to painting - is one I hold dear.'*

McCrickard's *New Romantics* bring us a world of human realities in which her subjects in the cafés and bars of Belleville – her *quartier* in Paris – emerge from the isolation and strangeness of lockdown. They are seeking love, company, family reunions. Always observed from life in a flow of fugitive drawings, the participants enter a realm of the imagination in the artist's studio, where anything can happen. And it does!

Themes in the work have evolved over a ten-year period with this show celebrating the decade and marking many new developments in larger canvases, as well as a striking body of the latest drypoints. During this time McCrickard has accomplished extraordinary feats; in 2010 she wrote the book on William Kentridge for Tate's Modern Art Series and went on to contribute numerous articles and essays on print-makers from the Renaissance to now in notable print journals, and essays for fellow artists' catalogues, including Eileen Cooper RA. Inbetween all this she has had three wonderful children and her work has entered the permanent collections of the British Museum, the New York Public Library, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum. How appropriate then that the exhibition begins on 8 March, International Women's Day 2023!

A fully illustrated online catalogue accompanies *New Romantics*, and will be published in hard copy in due course: <https://www.artfirst.co.uk/current.html>

Marisol Jacquemot Derode has created an exceptional group of ceramic vessels by way of a response to McCrickard's paintings. Sculpted in earthenware, stoneware and porcelain and sumptuously glazed, their innovative forms at times echo those she observes in passages of paint, or they come about as formal counterpoints with chromatic connections that animate the exhibition, making us look afresh at the paintings as the formal analogies become clear. The element of surprise is there and the feeling of trust within this collaboration gives enormous pleasure to present.

For all enquiries and price lists please contact Clare Cooper: [clare@artfirst.co.uk](mailto:clare@artfirst.co.uk)

**Gallery Hours:**

Wed – Fri 11 – 6 or by appointment. Exceptionally, the gallery will be open on Saturday 18 and 26 March and 12 – 4pm and 2 and 12 April from 12 – 4pm.

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