

Helen Beard

B.1971

Based in Southwick, West Sussex, UK

Introduction

Beard's works lie between abstraction and representation, reducing figures to vibrant fields of colour. Through this joyous use of bright colouring, Beard seeks to reclaim depictions of the body and of the sexual from the predominant male perspective. These are explicit works that unreservedly depict sex, encouraging the viewer to engage with the subject without embarrassment or reserve. Using her knowledge of cinematography, Beard employs tight angles and close crops of the body when framing her works in order to portray the act of sex with a striking level of intimacy. Beard's works also emphasise the importance of sexual inclusivity by portraying the diversity of sexuality, allocating attention to experiences that are often censored by the mainstream.

Education

1992 BA, Bournemouth and Poole College of Art and Design

Solo Exhibitions

2022 *The Tulips Are Too Excitable, It Is Winter Here*, Reflex, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2021 *Lyrical Lines*, Paul Stolper Gallery, London, UK

2020 *The Desire Path*, Reflex, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2019 *It's Her Factory*, Unit London, UK

2010 *You Look Good Gallery, We Are Cuts*, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

2022 *Sensitive Content*, co-curated by Helen Beard, Unit London, London, UK

2020 *Drawn Together (online)*, Unit London, UK

2019 *Reasons Give No Answers*, Newport Street Gallery, London, UK

2018 *True Colours*, Newport Street Gallery, London, UK
21st Century Women, Unit London, London, UK

2017 *The Art Car Boot Fair*, Newport Gallery Stand, London, UK
Selected Works from the Murderme Collection, Newport Street Gallery, London, UK

2010 *The Term Reality*, Paul Stolper Gallery, London, UK

2001 *Go girl, Show girl*, Gallery Fresh, London, UK

2000 *Cambridge Darkroom Big Warm Open*, Cambridge, UK

Press & Publications (selected)

2021 February
'The Challenge and Allure of Portraying Sex in Art Today', Artsy

2020 November
'Meet the Artist: Helen Beard', Flannels

September
'Helen Beard, The Desire Path', XIBT Magazine

May

'Helen Beard', You Wanted A List

'The Desire Path by Helen Beard', Numéro Magazine

'Discover the work of Helen Beard – visually exciting, bright and voyeuristic', Tribute To

2019 November

'Into the colourful and bold universe of Helen Beard', Artnote

October

'The Naked Lunch of Helen Beard. At Last!', Article

September

'Helen Beard: 'I want to present sex in an exciting way that doesn't involve shame or prudishness', inews

'Helen Beard: Colourful Pleasure', Metal Magazine

'Welcome to the Pleasuredome: Helen Beard Interviewed', The Quietus

'Passion and sex in the technicolor world by Helen Beard', Collateral Magazine

'Helen Beard to be Showcased at Unit London Gallery', KCW London

'Helen Beard Exhibition Review', BNI Magazine

August

'It's Her Factory will be the largest solo exhibition to date by artist, Helen Beard', FAD Magazine

'Helen Beard Challenges Ideas of Sexuality in 'It's Her Factory' Exhibition', Hypebeast

'Helen Beard's Explicit Paintings Go On View at Unit London', Widewalls

'It's Her Factory: Vibrant paintings of explicit sex acts, entwined bodies male and female self-pleasure', Creative Boom

'Helen Beard Largest Solo Exhibition to Date', Trebuchet

2018 October

'21st Century Women', FAD Magazine

September

'Helen Beard, Sadie Laska & Boo Saville: True Colours', Boundary

July

'Helen Beard's True Colours', Twin Magazine

June

'A Saatchi for the next generation? Damien Hirst commissions 21 works by emerging artists for new show', The Art Newspaper

'Three Women Painting Big', Artlyst

'Here are the 3 Emerging Artists Damien Hirst Tapped to Make Work for his Private Museum', Artnet News

'True Colours at the Newport Street Gallery', Art is Alive

May

'Three Female Artists Show Their True Colours at Newport Street Gallery', Artlyst

Collections

Amoli Foundation, Hong kong

Stella Art Foundation, Moscow, Russia

Murderme Collection, London, UK

Goss Michael Foundation, Dallas, USA

Bunker Foundation (Rudin De Woody Collection), LA, USA