

Alison O'Neill

Bio

Alison O'Neill makes non-narrative, experimental moving image works that use video as a material to explore domestic imagination. Her work looks at how the domestic space both contains and constructs the female subject. This work is underpinned by theoretical ideas of female subjectivity and the female imaginary and explores the formal, and often, abstract beauty of the ordinary and the everyday. This mundane beauty becomes the catalyst for an escape route into an imaginary world.

Earlier video work explored the maternal experience within the context of power relations as well as visualising maternal subjectivity, longing and desire. This body of work included the videos *Punctures* and *(S)mother* which were both shortlisted for *The Birth Rites Collection Prize*.

Alison lives and works in Cambridge, UK. She trained in Fine Art at Falmouth College of Art in Cornwall and gained her MA in Feminist Theory and Practice in the Visual Arts from the University of Leeds, where she studied under the feminist art historian Griselda Pollock.

Alison is currently developing a major new body of work supported by Arts Council England.

Recent exhibitions and screenings include *Bridge Video*, Chicago (2023), *Artist-Parent Pandemic Video and New Genres* at the CAA Annual Conference, New York (2021), *Open Out* at The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (2019), *The Birth Rites Collection Shortlist* Screenings at The Whitworth Gallery, Manchester and King's College London (2018), *The Art of Surrender* at The Stills Centre for Photography, Edinburgh (2018) and *Quickening* at The Nightingale Cinema, Chicago (2017)

CV

Education

PGCE Art, University of Cambridge
MA Feminist Theory and Practice in the Visual Arts, University of Leeds
BA (Hons) Fine Art, Falmouth College of Arts

Selected Recent Screenings

2023 *Bridge Video*, Chicago, USA
2021 *Artist-Parent Pandemic Video and New Genres*, CAA Annual Conference, New York, USA
2018 *The Art of Surrender: Motherhood and Moving Image*, Stills Centre for Photography, Edinburgh, UK
2018 *Birth Rites Collection Prize: Shortlist Screening*, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK
2018 *Birth Rites Collection Prize: Shortlist Screening*, Kings College, London, UK
2017 *Quickening*, Curated by Extended Practice, Nightingale Cinema, Chicago, USA
2016 *Brood Film Festival*, Exeter Phoenix, Devon, UK
2015 *Birth Rites Collection Competition: shortlisted artworks* - MediaCityUK, Salford

Selected Recent Exhibitions

2024 *SFSA Drawing Open*, No Format Gallery, London
2023 *Viloma*, Royal Free Hospital, London, UK
2023 *SFSA Drawing Open*, No Format Gallery, London, UK
2023 *Unconsumed*, The Shoe Factory Social Club, Norwich, UK
2023 *Viloma*, Citizens Art Gallery, London, UK
2021 *Shutterhub* Open, Cafe Gallery, St Margaret's House, London, UK
2020 *Homeworks*, Spilt Milk Gallery, Edinburgh (Online) UK
2020 *Time to Think* (Encore), Pil'ours festival, St Gilles Croix de Vie France

2019 *Acropolis Remix*, The Wrong Biennale, Athens and online.
2019 *Home*, Gallery at Home, Usk, Wales, UK
2019 *Time to Think*, Pil'ours festival, St Gilles Croix de Vie, France
2019 *Open Out*, The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
2018 *Oh MoTHER*, Spilt Milk Gallery, Custom House Leith, Edinburgh, UK
2018 *The Art of Relation*, Cambridge Artworks, Cambridge, UK
2017 *Nasty Women London*, The Black and White Building, London, UK
2017 *Sketch Open Drawing Prize*, Rabley Drawing Centre, Marlborough, UK
2017 *Nasty Women Cambridge*, Cambridge Artworks, UK
2017 *Sketch Open Drawing Prize*, Peter Scott Gallery Lancaster, UK
2017 *Desperate Artwives: 5th Edition*, Granby Space, London, UK
2017 *Sketch Open Drawing Prize*, Plymouth College of Arts, Plymouth, UK
2017 *Sketch Open Drawing Prize*, Black Swan Arts, Frome, UK
2016 *Object, Object*, Alison Richard's Building, University of Cambridge, UK
2015 *Project AfterBirth*, White Moose Gallery, Devon, UK
2015 *ProCreate Project Launch*, Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths, UK
2015 *One For Sorrow*, Arts Centre Gallery, North Hertfordshire College, UK
2014 *Residents Artists Exhibition*, Arts Centre Gallery, NHC, UK
2011 *Follow the Fellow*, Changing Spaces, Regent Street, Cambridge, UK

Curatorial Projects

2017 *Lass Struggle* (Exhibition and screening programme) FiliArt at Filia Conference, Institute of Education, London, UK (Co-curator)

Awards/Prizes

2024 DYCP Award, Arts Council England
2023 Oppenheim-John Downes Memorial Trust Award
2020 a-n Professional Development Mentoring Bursary
2019 Oppenheim-John Downes Memorial Trust Award
2017 Birth Rites Collection Prize Shortlist
2017 Sketch Open Drawing Prize Shortlist
2015 Birth Rites Collection Prize Shortlist

Residencies

2018 Digital Artist Residency <http://digitalartistresidency.org/>
2016-2018 Associate Artist at DIEP (Digital Institute for Early Parenthood)
2014-2015 AA2A Artist in Residence, Arts Centre, North Hertfordshire College
2011-2012 AA2A Artist in Residence at Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University

Publications/ Catalogues/ Conference Papers

2019 O'Neill A and Paul J, *One for Sorrow: the collaborative work of mother and not-yet mother* in *The Maternal in Creative Work: Intergenerational Discussions on Motherhood and Art* Ed. Elena Marchevska and Valerie Walkerdine. Routledge (Book Chapter)
2017 *Lass Struggle*, FiliArt (Exhibition Catalogue)
2017 *SKETCH Open Drawing Prize*, Rabley Publications (Exhibition Catalogue)
2016 *Art History and the Objectification of Women*, Objectification and Gendered Violence Symposium, Crassh, University of Cambridge (Conference Paper)
2015 *Mother and Child Divided*, Thatcher, J, in *Art Monthly*, July/Aug 2015 (Mention)
2015 *Imaginary Children*, *Motherhood and Creative Practice: Maternal Structures in Creative Work*, London Southbank University (Conference Paper)