

PRESS RELEASE***BODY SUIT*****George Rouy****3 June – 9 September 2023**

Human beings need reinforcement and refuge, pleasure does not necessarily seduce us from the tasks at hand, but can fortify us. The pleasure that is beauty, the beauty that is meaning, order, calm.

— Rebecca Solnit

Skin encloses and enshrines the body's complex internal workings in a way that makes them both safe and mysterious.

— Jack Hartnell

However we may wish to keep in one posture - for it is in these Ecstasies that lines of pure poetry suddenly flow as if liquefied by a great heat - so to remain in one posture was against nature. Perhaps it is against the nature of things also. We snatch the intensity because we are aware of the change that must alter, of the discord that must interrupt.

— Virginia Woolf

The contents of these new *BODY SUIT* paintings by George Rouy are at once the contents of the unconscious mind, the world of fantasy and imagination, and lived experience; at once contradiction, resolution, belief. The group of ten works that make up the exhibition give equal prominence to physical and psychological experiences of the figure, traversing a propulsive line between internal and external positions: internal gaze reflected through external object and vice versa.

BODY SUIT is something we wear, and also something we are; it speaks to how we feel in and outside our bodies, how we carry ourselves and how that mass of feeling and feeling of mass constantly shifts and moves: a series of truths that are fluid and flexible, and at times dissonant, misleading, or even humorous. Like the two groups of work made before this one (*Shit Mirror* and *Belly Ache*), *BODY SUIT* combines the physical and the psychological to confront the figure with intent and cause; a continued, committed line of inquiry.

George Rouy's paintings dissolve and dismantle unpredictable barriers between internal and external to bring forth a singular experience of the figure: in and out of space and place; in and out of time past, phantom and present; and - most dangerous and difficult of all - in and out of body and mind itself. In *BODY SUIT* he sets all these thoughts and ideas out and offers them to us without compromise.

George Rouy (b. 1994, Sittingbourne, UK). Lives and works in Kent.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Friday 2 June 5-8pm
Opening & Book Launch

2-4 June
London Gallery Weekend

New Publication
Selected Works 2017-2023
With text by Charlie Mills
Pre-Order from Tarmac Press

Wednesday 19 July
BODY SUIT
Live with Sharon Eyal
Music by Soft Toys