



Victoria Cantons (b.1969, London, UK) is a conceptual visual artist working in London, UK. Cantons's artistic work is varied and is presented in multiple mediums including painting, neon, poetry, text, performance, photographs and videos, connecting and disconnecting psychological boundaries in the relationships we have with ourselves and others.

Her work is autobiographical and confessional with political undercurrents. Being raised in a multicultural and multireligious home by European immigrant parents—her mother was from Spain and Catholic, and her father was French-Algerian, born to Russian Jewish and Basque parents—Cantons has memories of being different from the outset. Her ability to accept, declare and celebrate oneself is an ongoing journey for her, and has been littered with mental anguish, trauma, and scars. This influence can be seen in her works, with her use of text written into the surface of paintings and the language used to title works.

Cantons' paintings explore the intersection abstraction and figuration. She makes highly naturalistic figurative canvases often making use of photographic images, and also makes expressionistic canvases that incorporate abstractions, expressive drips, and gestural, calligraphic line-work into lyrical ruminations. Using a large image archive, her paintings reference her family members, self portraits, flowers, and objects, and she often inscribes quoted text from a wide variety of sources. Cantons sometimes incorporates ideas of femininity and gender in her work, drawing on her experiences as a gay and transgender woman.

EDUCATION

2021-18 MFA Painting, Slade School of Art, University College London

2018-17 Painters Studio Programme, Turps Art School, London

2017-14 BA (Hons) Fine Art: Painting, Wimbledon College of Arts, University of the Arts London

1997-95 Drama, Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA South), London

RESIDENCIES

2023 The Chalet Creative Residency, Sigriswil, Switzerland

2022 The Vannucci Artist Residency, Città della Pieve, Italy

2021 Silver Art Projects Digital Residency, New York, USA

PRIZES / SHORTLISTS

2024 Apollo's Decathlon - A Cultural Olympiad (Shortlist)
2023 Ruth Borchard Self Portrait Prize (Shortlist)
2022 New Contemporaries (shortlist)
2021 Chadwell Award (shortlist)
2018 Felix Slade Scholarship, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 If Only, Time Were Ours To Spend, Again, curation by Christian Dominguez, Kunstverein Dresden (Art Association Dresden), Dresden
2023 What Birds Plunge Through Is Not The Intimate Space, Guts Gallery, London
2023 Nothing is Absolute, Flowers Gallery, London
2022 People Trust People Who Look Like Them, Flowers Gallery, London
2020 Champagne tastes on beer money, Guts Gallery, London
2018 Give Me Your Hand So That I May Not Be Alone, 48 Woodstock Road, London

TWO ARTIST SHOW

2021 Tomorrow Will Be The Most Beautiful Day Of Your Life, with Xu Yang, Studio West, London
2021 You Can Tell Me, with Marla Bendini, curation by John Silvis, Cuturi Gallery, Singapore

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 Opens 22nd February - Transfeminisms, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA), Arizona
2024 Opens August - Fundraiser, Hospital Rooms @ Hauser & Wirth, London
2024 Transfeminisms Chapter III, Mimosa House, London
2024 Artist of the Day Archive, Flowers Gallery, London
2024 Apollo's Decathlon - A Cultural Olympiad, Château de Montsoreau–Museum of Contemporary Art, Montsoreau
2024 Drawing Biennial, Drawing Room, London
2024 Beyond the Looking Glass, galerie lange + pult, Zürich
2024 The Arcadian Dream, SPURS Gallery, Beijing
2024 Present Tense, Hauser & Wirth, Somerset
2023 Last Tango Fundraising Auction, Last Tango Kunstverein Zurich (Last Tango Art Association Zurich), Zurich
2023 The Cult of Beauty, Wellcome Collection, London
2023 Self Portrait Prize 2023, The Atkinson Museum, Southport
2023 Holding Space, Hospital Rooms at Hauser & Wirth, London
2023 Bee Garden Party Fundraiser Postcard Art Auction, Bees for Development, Marlborough House, London
2023 The object stares back, Tube Culture Hall, Milan
2023 Positions Part 1, Alma Pearl, London
2023 (It's My Party) I Can Cry If I Want To, Guts Gallery, London
2022 Small is Beautiful 40th edition, Flowers Gallery, London
2022 Combat Stress Charity, Bankside Gallery, London and Glasgow Art Club, Glasgow
2022 New Romantics, The Artist Room x Phillips at Lee Eugean Gallery, Seoul
2022 Like there is hope and I can dream of another world, Hospital Rooms at Hauser & Wirth, London
2022 The Amber Room by Rosie Reed, Reference Point, London
2022 Art On A Postcard: International Women's Day, Bomb Factory Gallery, London
2022 An Ode to Orlando, Marcelle Joseph Projects @ Pi Artworks, London
2021 Invisible Dragon, Cedric Bardawil, London
2021 Small is Beautiful 39th edition, Flowers Gallery, London
2021 ING Discerning Eye, The Mall Galleries, London
2021 LONDON GRADS NOW. 21, Saatchi Gallery, London
2021 Collection, Sixty Six London, London
2021 Yield, No 20 Arts, London
2021 A New Art World, Guts Gallery, London
2021 Slade Postgraduate Fine Art Degree Show, Slade School of Art (UCL), London
2021 Every Woman Biennial London: My love is Your Love, Copeland Gallery, London
2021 ANOTHER FIGURE, Silvis Contemporary, Online
2021 TRANSCENDENTAL, Cuturi Gallery, Singapore
2021 When Snowdrops Rise, MAPA Fine Art, online
2021 New Futures Digital: Slade, Kovet.art Gallery, Online

2021 Redirecting, Tree Art Museum, Beijing
2020 PAPA RAGAZZE, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles
2020 the tales we tell ourselves, Purslane Gallery, online
2020 TwentyTwenty Women, Artistellar Gallery, online
2020 RA Summer (Winter) Show, Royal Academy of Art, London
2020 A Rudimentary Education, Art Lacuna, London
2020 LONDON GRADS NOW., Saatchi Gallery, London
2020 RCA & SLADE Graduate Showcase, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London
2020 Begin Again, Guts Gallery, online show via instagram
2020 Tomorrow: London (week 3 of 4), White Cube Gallery, London
2020 Trans-Identity: Body, Soul and Time, NoSpace Organisation, online show via instagram and NoSpace WeChat Official
2020 When Shit Hits the Fan, Guts Gallery, online show via instagram
2019 Little Originals exhibition, Dock Street Studios, Dundee
2019 Annual Open Exhibition 2019, The South West Academy of Fine and Applied Arts @ Exeter Castle, Devon
2019 Graduate Interim Show, Slade School of Art (UCL), London
2019 Beautiful China, Beautiful World: Golden Era of China-UK, China Pictorial & UK-China Photography Association @ Central Hall Westminster, London and Charing Cross Library, London
2019 On the Mountain We Stay, supported by No Space in Zichuan district, Zibo city, Shandong province, China
2019 AIR Open 2019, AIR Gallery, Manchester
2019 RA Summer Show, Royal Academy of Art, London
2019 Change, Hundred Years Gallery, London
2019 Micro, AIR Gallery, Manchester
2019 TROPE, Serf, Leeds
2019 LOVE, Slade School of Art (UCL), London
2019 Pulling Teeth, ASC Gallery, London
2018 Turps Studio Painters, Paul Stolper, London
2018 Set 24, The Art Academy, London
2018 CHAIN, The Library of China University of Mining & Technology, Beijing
2018 Artist of the Day 24th edition (Day 9), Flowers Gallery, London
2018 Beijing Summer Exhibition 18, NL Gallery, Beijing
2018 Picnic, Subsidiary Projects, London
2017 Glutted: 7 Artists 24 Hours, 392 Grove Green Road, London
2017 Wimbledon College Undergraduate Summer Show, UAL, London
2017 Landscapes of the Mind & Earth, Conference Centre Gallery, St Pancras Hospital, London
2017 Currents of Identity, The Crypt Gallery, St Pancras Church, London
2017 To Be Continued..., Gallery of the College of Arts, Huabei University of Science & Technology Tangshan, China
2017 109 Nails, Copeland Park, London
2017 8th edition of Loudest Whispers, Conference Centre, St Pancras Hospital, London
2016 Exhibit Here Summer Exhibition, Menier Gallery, London
2015 Interrogating The Soul, SAFEHOUSE 1, London
2015 Contemporary Art, Forme Trinity @ This Is Art Gallery, London
2014 Summer Edit, Moreton Gallery, Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire
2013 Summer Foundation Course Show, Slade School of Art (UCL), London
2013 Zhe:[noun] Undefined, Soho Theatre, London
2013 4th edition of Loudest Whispers, Conference Centre, St Pancras Hospital, London

COLLECTIONS

The Deighton Foundation, UK
The Indigo Collection, UK
The Lougher Contemporary, UK
The Roberts Institute of Art, UK