

GALLERY ELENA SHCHUKINA



Gallery Elena Shchukina: a new, immersive environment for art and design Opening 24 September 2013

Artist and curator Elena Shchukina is launching an eponymous space in Mayfair this September that will challenge the traditional gallery format.

Painting, furniture, lighting, objets and wall coverings will be in dialogue, to create an immersive aesthetic environment - a revolutionary gallery experience. Painting will take the lead, setting the tone for the interior design and furnishings. Shchukina's personal interest in painting and her belief in the power of art to inspire a room setting, are the guiding principles.

"I want visitors to Gallery Elena Shchukina to feel almost as though they are stepping into a painting when they come here", says Shchukina, who studied interior design in Moscow, Milan and London. "We are going to work with contemporary designers who will take their cue from the artists with whom we work to create furniture, rugs, lighting and even jewellery that will all complement and reflect the paintings that we show. My idea is to create holistic environments that are inspiring, creative rooms that become perfect living spaces; places that are uplifting, yet also make you feel comfortable, and 'at home'."

The first artist to show in the space will be Onyeka Ibe. Now an internationally recognised artist, Ibe grew up during the unrest that followed the end of the Nigerian civil war. In his formative years he experienced periods of intense violence that beset the floundering democracy. He realised that his art could take two paths - either to rail against dehumanizing situations or to capture elements of humanity in his work. His work reflects the latter: Ibe's portraits, landscapes and still lifes are quiet and reflective, meditative blocks of richly coloured paint. He achieved success early in his career, exhibiting at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Lagos at 16. His work features in international collections and he currently resides in New York.

Ibe's work will be shown alongside beautifully-crafted furniture and rugs that echo the palette and structure of his paintings, to create a unique and complete living space.

For more press information, please contact Theresa Simon at Theresa Simon & Partners, 020 7734 4800 theresa@theresasimon.com

Listings information

Onyeka Ibe: Interactive Spaces

24 September – 9 November 2013

Opening hours: Tuesday – Friday 9am – 6pm, Saturday – 9.30am – 6pm

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Elena Shchukina was born and raised in Siberia. She successfully completed a law degree at Moscow Law State Academy before deciding to pursue her passion for art and design by studying at the Moscow Design School. The course involved periods of study in London and at the prestigious Instituto Marangoni in Milan, where she was inspired to start experimenting with furniture-making and painting herself. Part of the course requirement was to create themed environments, proposals for interiors where all the elements – art, furniture, wall coverings, floors and objects – would come together to create a harmonious whole. This sparked Elena’s imagination and she began to think about creating a new kind of gallery, one that, rather than showing art in a traditional ‘white cube’ format, would instead create a living space filled with painting, sculpture, furniture, objets and even lighting.

Moving to London in 2009, she completed a course at Sotheby’s Institute of Art and then began researching how best to create the new gallery concept. She visited art fairs and degree shows to discover uplifting work, focusing on artists and makers who show a mastery of their medium, who create vibrant pieces that bring a room or environment to life. During this research she met royal portraitist Zohar Israel, with whom she now studies painting. Colour and energy are all-important to her and the paintings, objects and furniture that will be displayed at Gallery Elena Schukina will reflect this infectious verve for living.