

# EMMA RICHARDSON: OH! TO LEAVE A TRACE



We are excited to present a solo exhibition by **Emma Richardson**, opening at the Union Club from **Monday 23 March** to Friday 24 April 2026.

Driven by an interest in psychology, sexuality, transcendence and the sublime, Richardson draws inspiration from feminist writers, the female Surrealists and the drama of Baroque painting. Alongside her background as a touring musician, these influences inform her large-scale oil paintings on canvas which examine the complexities of interior life and investigate the politics of desire, the necessity of collective joy, and our shifting relationship with nature.

This exhibition brings together a selection of smaller works on paper and canvas which draw upon themes central to Richardson's practice:

"Drawing in charcoal and painting in watercolour and acrylic on paper at a small scale, is a thrilling way to get ideas down fast whilst on tour. I can take my supplies with me anywhere and create something whenever there is a moment, in hotel rooms or dressing rooms, parks or planes.

Making smaller paintings on canvas in the studio is a freeing way to either test ideas for larger works or to experiment with different colour palettes or ways of capturing a certain mood, sensation or feeling in paint. I enjoy switching between scales as there is always something new to learn in how to approach a composition."

The title of the show is taken from a quote by American writer, poet and art critic Frank O'Hara, which Richardson stumbled upon while reading *Ninth Street Women* by Mary Gabriel:

"Simply to live does not justify existence, for life is a mere gesture on the surface of the earth, and death a return to that from which we had never been wholly separated; but oh to leave a trace, no matter how faint, of that brief gesture! For someone, someday, may find it beautiful!"

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Emma Richardson (b.1982 Southampton) is an artist and musician whose creative career spans 20 years. She graduated from Wimbledon School of Art, London, with a BA in Painting in 2004 and currently lives and works in London.

She has exhibited in solo and group shows in London, Margate, Southampton, Hong Kong, Barcelona and Madrid. In 2021, she received Develop Your Creative Practice funding from Arts Council England and in 2022 completed three years on the Turps Correspondence Course. 2026 sees the opening of her first solo museum exhibition *Levitate Me* at Southampton City Art Gallery.

Richardson is also a musician. She previously wrote and performed with Band of Skulls for six albums, with her paintings appearing on several of their releases.

She is currently the bassist and backing vocalist with the Pixies and contributed to their latest album *The Night The Zombies Came*.

## **PRIVATE VIEW**

Monday 23 March, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Guest list only, RSVP to [roz@unionclub.co.uk](mailto:roz@unionclub.co.uk)

## **VISITING**

Exhibition closes Friday 24 April 2026

Monday to Friday | 10am to 5pm

Union Club, 50 Greek Street, London W1D 4EQ

## **PRICE LIST & ENQUIRIES**

Roz Arratoon | [roz@unionclub.co.uk](mailto:roz@unionclub.co.uk)

Image: Emma Richardson, 2026, acrylic on paper © the artist

