

Karsten Schubert London

Press Release

Magda Archer: It's a Magda Archer Christmas

2–22 December 2021

Room 2, Soho, London

Open Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

Private view: 1 December, 4–8pm

Karsten Schubert London is pleased to present *It's a Magda Archer Christmas*, a solo exhibition of new and recent paintings by Magda Archer. Drawing on a personal archive of found images sourced from books, comics, ephemera and memory, Archer paints rainbow-bright compositions that depict a roll call of cartoonish characters accentuated by punchy slogans. Rendered in her trademark retro-inspired typography, the wry humour behind the text varies from 'random thoughts' to more savage observations which, combined with her exuberant painting style, fluctuate between lighthearted kitsch and sharp satire.

Archer originally studied and worked as a commercial illustrator, which is evident in her confident palette, graphic style and facility to balance typography and image for maximum visual effect. The successful cohesion of distinctly reproducible paintings with their friction between slogan and sentiment, has gained her a popular following among the art and fashion world alike. She has collaborated with renowned international fashion houses Marc Jacobs (2019–2021), Jenny Packham (2017) and Comme des Garçons (2012). These collaborations are part of a broader, democratic 'art for all' approach to making and showing art

that has led Archer to participate in a variety of projects outside of the traditional gallery space including: releasing multiples, affordable print editions and displaying posters across the UK as part of a major public arts programme.



Magda Archer, *Life Is Beautiful*, 2021

Karsten Schubert London

For *It's a Magda Archer Christmas*, her first solo exhibition in London, Archer will present a group of paintings reflecting a range of themes from pandemic anxiety to the pressures of social media and consumer culture. Through these works Archer echoes her interest in Pop Art, particularly the authentic nostalgia in the paintings of Peter Blake and the epic cartoon strip drama of Roy Lichtenstein's paintings. In

Life Is Beautiful (2020), *Is It Over Yet?* (2019) and *I Miss My Bougie Life* (2020) in particular, Archer shows that she is unafraid to make paintings that amplify elements typified as cute, polite, sweet and feminine – the very tropes that previously marginalised women artists. Bringing these to the fore in the form of candy-coloured, spirited cartoon animals, she redefines their Disney-esque associations by way of a defiant attitude and daring wit, projecting their pop culture value back at her audience through a reimagining of their context.

About Magda Archer

Magda Archer is London-based artist renowned for work that combines nostalgic paintings with raw, contemporary turns of phrase. Archer (b. 1964) studied at Ravensbourne College of Art, Chelsea School of Art, the Royal College of Art before co-founding the illustration duo Archer/Quinell, which rose to critical and commercial acclaim from 1988 to 1998.

Since her first solo exhibition *Crazy Mad* at The Cornerhouse, Manchester in 2011, Archer has shown across the UK and abroad including in *Peter Blake: About Collages* at Tate Liverpool (2000) and her breakthrough exhibition *#givemeeverythingandnothingbaby* at HOME, Manchester and Chapter Arts, Cardiff (2015).

Her renowned public posters for Flying Leaps immediately become recognisable landmarks in London's urban landscape. On a global scale, Archer collaborates with major fashion designers, including her recent and ongoing project *Magda Archer x The Marc Jacobs* and previous work with *Commes des Garçons* and *Jenny Packham*.

About Karsten Schubert London

Karsten Schubert London represents a selection of prominent and emerging British artists: Rose English, Kirsten Glass, Tess Jaray, Sarah Kogan, Cathie Pilkington, Frances Richardson and Alison Wilding. Since its founding in 1986 the gallery has presented a continuous exhibition programme in London's Soho, today operating at 46 and 44 Lexington Street. The gallery works to nurture the careers of its artists through commercial exhibitions, fostering institutional shows and purchases, commissions and publications by its publishing arm, Ridinghouse.

Press Enquiries

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