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Going Out › Arts

Catch Marlon Brando in the shower at Cob Gallery's exhibition skewering Hollywood glamour

Nina Mae Fowler's new exhibition interrogates the power of film and fame



Golden age: Nina Mae Fowler's large scale Swansdown shows Hollywood glamour in ruins

Marlon Brando having a shower in an art gallery in **Camden** may not be a sight you ever expected to see - that is, until you visit **Nina Mae Fowler's** new exhibition at **Cob Gallery**.

An ambitious site-specific installation shows Brando having a shower in preparation for his performance in the 1951 **film** version of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, interrogating ideas of the macho in Hollywood's golden age.

Fowler said that she was inspired to create the piece after watching a 2015 documentary, *Listen to Me Marlon*, about the star.

“I was taken by what a complicated person he was, and the effect his acute paranoia had on his family and those around him,” she says. “I wanted to create an experience which makes people think about the power of film and fame.”



The entrance to the installation

She says that recent debates about male entitlement in Hollywood also influenced the piece. “This installation makes the viewer feel uncomfortable in Marlon’s titanic presence: you are alone with this captivating figure and hopefully you have the chance to ask why we are so enraptured by the influence of stardom, when the reality can be quite lurid,” she added.

The exhibition also explores the taboos of Hollywood's golden age, with *Every Girl Crazy* depicting screen queens like **Marilyn Monroe** gorging on food in a way that would never be permitted for a leading lady.



Every Girl Crazy

The exhibition is named *While I'm Still Warm*, after Monroe's jovial remark to her make-up artist Allan 'Whitey' Snyder that should she die, he should make up her corpse while it was still warm. This feeds into the feeling throughout Fowler's exhibition, that the cinematic frames of these Hollywood classics are both a memory and death mask.

Fowler has been nominated for the Jerwood Drawing Prize twice, and in 2008 was nominated for the BP Portrait Prize for her painting of Royal Ballet dancer **Carlos Acosta**.