

➔ INFOCUS NINA FOWLER

IMAGE & TEXT CARLA BOREL

NINA FOWLER's multi-disciplinary practice encompasses painting, printmaking and sculpture but focuses above all on drawing. Her meticulously rendered pencil and graphite drawings are infused with a cinematic quality and draw on a fascination with Hollywood's golden age of glamour. The starting point for her drawings are obscure movies from film noir and the silent era and through extensive research Fowler cherry-picks images of starlets who held fleeting moments of fame. These actresses may have been forgotten over time but I feel they represent the darker underbelly of fame today but with an impenetrable shield of glamour.

This use of found imagery relates to Fowler's interest in other people's archives. After receiving a First in sculpture from Brighton University, she worked as archivist to former Indica gallerist, John Dunbar, who introduced Fowler to David Courts, the jewellery designer who made Keith Richards' famous skull ring, curator James Birch and Barry Miles (writer and co-director of the Indica gallery and bookshop). Fowler has borrowed images from their personal archives to instigate her latest project, *Intimate Strangers*, a series of drawings based on these photographs. Londoners can see these new works in Spring 2013 at London

ART13 in a solo presentation with her Parisian gallery Dukan Hourdequin.

Nina Fowler was born in London in 1981. In 2008, she was nominated for the *BP Portrait Prize* with her painting of the Royal Ballet dancer, Carlos Acosta; and in 2010 her work was shortlisted for the *Jerwood Drawing Prize*. She was the face of *The Other Art Fair 2012*, and nominated for the *Young Masters Art Prize*. Her work is currently being collected by British film, fashion and music luminaries such as John Maybury, Jude Law, Caroline Issa and Sharileen Spiteri.

'If I had to describe my work in one word, I'd say it's ultimately about desire.'

NINA FOWLER

