

WE *Speak* TO NINA MAE FOWLER ON ART, LIFE AND FEMALE STRENGTH



Why you have chosen to support Future Dreams?

I was invited to attend the annual fundraising lunch last year in place of a close friend who could not attend. The friend in question had recently been through breast cancer and I wanted to show my support. I was hugely impressed by the level of commitment the organisers of the event showed by staging a moving, informative and engaging afternoon, during which an incredible amount of money was raised.

I learnt about the charity, its founders, the work it does and its ambitions for the future and I felt motivated to help. Future Dreams feels to me an intensely personal project – founded by a mother and daughter, whose family and friends are driven by love and strength in continuing their legacy.

Anybody who has been affected by breast cancer, including myself, can only be compelled by the passion behind this charity.

Being a Future Dreams Ambassador Sam Jacobs and Jessica Smith hoped that I might be able to offer some assistance in organising an art auction in aid of Future Dreams. Having been involved in numerous auctions in the past (donating works) and being connected with other London based artists I felt I could help.

I am over the moon with the works we have collected for this auction so far as it shows how much the artists want to support the charity and its aim to build 'Future Dreams House'. Donating works is a brilliant way to offer help and create a buzz around the auction.

Tell us about you, your partner, and life with a baby. How you are dealing with this?

When I started working with Future Dreams I was seven months pregnant and have since given birth to a baby boy and moved to the countryside! It has been a bit of a whirlwind but since I am not currently in my studio I have been at my computer in spare moments letting people know about the charity and hoping to garner new support.



Share your thoughts about your beautiful collection and your donated 'Knockers' piece.

My work is very focused on the female. It is fundamentally about female strength and desire. My drawings come from a place of deep ambition and profound commitment. I feel they portray the intensity of a woman's fortitude in times of hardship and therefore are appropriate in representing the work Future Dreams is doing.

The piece I have decided to donate to the auction is the apex of this subject matter. It depicts Marlene Dietrich dancing with US marines during WWII when she turned her back on her native Germany in support of the allied forces. This was a show of great bravery and the image is one of loneliness and courage at the same time, dominance and subservience, strength and fragility, outer appearance and inner struggle.

What makes this piece unique are the two brass door knockers which are pendulously hanging from her breasts. The knockers are depictions of men, hands bound behind their backs, faces hidden behind masks, twisting and struggling against the black chalk backdrop of their host's chest. Cast in brass, these figures are a nod towards the melodrama of ornamental Victoriana and recall the twisted, tortured figures of Michelangelo's Dying and Rebellious Slaves. Each knocker is unique and no picture shares the same pair, there is no mould, each one is an individual sculpture. The brass was sourced from antique fixtures and fittings as it was important to me that they had an authentic essence.

This piece of work holds great value to me, as it brings together years of research into materials, techniques and the subjects it depicts. I am so happy that it will be helping to raise money for a cause I feel as strongly about as the work itself.

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