

OBJECTS OF DESIRE, VIDEO INTERVIEWS, MONDAY MUSE, SPOTLIGHT, THE WICK LIST, DREAM & DISCOVER

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight British artist Nina Mae Fowler

Championed by Rachel Chudley



Above Portrait of Nina Mae Fowler

Interview NINA MAE FOWLER

21 June 2023

Award-winning interior designer Rachel Chudley is known for creating interiors with a distinctive use of colour and texture. She has been working with artist Nina Mae Fowler since 2011 on a variety of curated projects.

Chudley says: “Since launching my design studio, I have included Nina’s large-scale charcoal and pencil drawings in several of my clients’ homes. Her drawing and sculptural practice is not only exceptional, but Nina’s research into her subject matter is awe-inspiring, surprising and contagiously fascinating.”

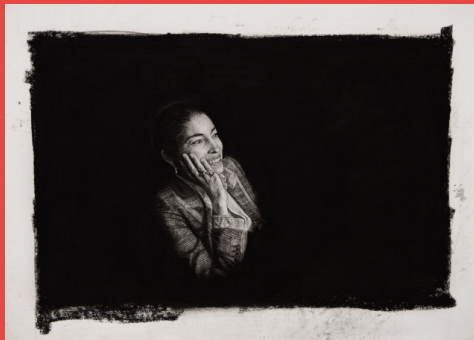
Best known for her highly detailed drawings and installations, Fowler has dedicated her career to depicting the stars of Hollywood's Golden Age. Drawing on source material including film stills, documentary footage, historical paparazzi and entertainment photography, she investigates the interplay between beauty and tragedy, and explores themes such as compulsion, exploitation and voyeurism.

Fowler says: "I take my inspiration from a wide range of media. As a 17-year-old A-Level student, I would sit in a booth at the British Library watching Andy Warhol films for hours on end – the only place I could access them. Now, 25 years on, everything is at one's fingertips – books, films, magazines, social media, newspapers. I have an extensive collection of books on art and cinema – my two greatest passions – fame and the circus which surrounds it. I soak up everything of interest to me and amalgamate the pieces into various shapes to make my work."

Chudley adds: "Beautiful and heart-breaking at the same time, Nina's works investigate the often-devastating effects of fame, focusing on the impossible spotlight and perilous underbelly of the Hollywood machine. One of my most beloved clients, a theatre performer and writer, has become one of Nina's avid collectors by way of discovery through my enthusiasm for her practice. We have enjoyed curating schemes of the rooms around some of my client's collection of Nina's show-stopping drawings."

Fowler's work will next be on display at artnow Gallery in Berlin in September as part of a two-person show with German photographer Edith Held. In 2024, she also hopes to have her first proper "outing" in the US.

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Above Caroline, In the Mood for Love, by Nina Mae Fowler

Place of Birth

London, UK

Education

Bachelor of Fine Art in Sculpture from the University of Brighton, East Sussex.

Awards, Accolades

Shortlisted for the 2016 ING Discerning Eye Drawing Bursary Award, the 2015 and 2010 Jerwood Drawing Prize, 2014 Drawing Now Prize, 2012 Young Masters Art Prize and 2008 BP Portrait Award.

Current exhibitions

I have a two-person show with German photographer Edith Held at artnow Gallery, Berlin, in September 2023.

Spiritual guides, Mentors

I don’t have a spiritual guide but I do believe fate plays a hand in every direction my work takes. My mentor would be my husband, Craig Wylie, who always pushes me that bit further to fulfil my potential, in a kind and gentle way.

Advice

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway. (Excerpts from The Paradoxical Commandments by Kent M. Keith)

About the champion



After graduating from The Courtauld Institute of Art, Rachel Chudley honed her craft at Camelback Institute of Interior Design in California. She founded her London design studio in 2014 and has built a reputation for offering an unconventional perspective, walking the line between the whimsical world of decoration and the bold world of design, art and architecture. She believes that quality of life is improved with art and has co-curated exhibitions featuring some of the most prominent artists from the contemporary and modern art world at the Cob Gallery.