

**PAULA REGO (b.1934)**

Paula Rego's Portuguese upbringing revolved around literature and, unsurprisingly, her artwork reflects this. She is quintessentially a storyteller, depicting fragments of events based in reality, yet tainted with the looming atmosphere of a sinister fairytale. Her figurative, narrative-based drawings for which she is perhaps most renowned, merge magical realism with sexually-charged overtones, exuding a delightful sense of unease. Feminist suggestions are palpable, through the sturdiness of her female characters and the raw physicality of the medium used to create them; thick-limbed, sinuous women are drawn with boldly applied pastels.

To me, her exceptionality lies in her ability to convey the nostalgia of children's literature, whilst dragging it into the corrupt arena of 'adulthood' in the context of our contemporary world.

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Paula Rego  
*Girl And Dog*

**GILLIAN AYRES (b.1930)**

Crazy paintings, crazy hair. No furniture is safe when Gillian is moved to create – table tops, chairs, old wardrobes, buried under riotous mountains of geranium reds, cadmium yellow and lavender blues. Formidable arm wrestler in earlier years, also plays the banjo.

*Chris Garratt (is one half of Biff – see page 37)*

**HELEN CHADWICK (1953-1996)**

Piss-artist (dec'd)  
*Chris Garratt (as above)*

**JULIA MARGARET CAMERON (1815-1879)**

Isle of Wight society hostess, friend and photographer of famous bearded blokes – used her kitchen as a darkroom. Known to have poisoned her house-party guests by accidentally adding fixer to the gravy.

*Chris Garratt (as above)*

**SARAH LUCAS (b.1962)**

Giving toilet humour a bad name...  
*Chris Garratt (as above)*

**ELSA VON FREYTAG-LORINGHOVEN (1874-1927)**

Described by the press as one of the "terrors" of Greenwich Village, Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven – sculptor, poet and performance artist - caused a public sensation with her nocturnal walks through the New York streets where she had taken exile during World War II. Using the streets as a performance site, despite suffering acute anxiety attacks, heart palpitations and paranoia, she assembled street detritus into sexually provocative sculptures. She would walk out wearing a coalscuttle for a helmet, tied to her head with a scarlet belt, Christmas tree balls for earrings and a tea strainer adorning her neck. A great plaster cast of a penis was paraded to the "old maids" she came into contact with. Her notorious appearances in worn 'Readymades' were also scandalous because her father-in-law was a high-ranking military official of the German army and public notary.

*Colette Meacher is Features Editor of Latest Art.*

**EILEEN AGAR (1899-1991)**

Eileen Agar was a painter, sculptor and milliner who fraternised with some of the greatest artists of the twentieth century. She moved from Argentina to England aged 7 and studied at Byam Shaw, the Slade School of Fine Art and in Paris, where she quickly fell under the sway of

the avant-garde surrealists. Lover to Paul Nash and Paul Eluard and friend of Ezra Pound, Agar holidayed with Picasso, Man Ray and Sir Roland Penrose between the wars. She was the only female British painter invited to show in the International Surrealist Exhibition in London (1936). Disturbed by the Second World War, ('how does one communicate with any subtlety when the world is deafened by explosions?'), she later went on to exhibit with the Surrealists in Paris, New York, Tokyo and Amsterdam. Agar's mythical subject matter deals with sexual pleasure and the power of play as a creative force, without which 'most of life's meaning is lost'. 'To play is to yield oneself to a kind of magic [...] to accept the unimagined and incredible, to enter a world where different laws apply, to be free, unfettered', Agar believed. The Tate owns two sculptures: 'Angel of Anarchy' (1936-40) and 'Marine Object' (1939).

*Colette Meacher is Features Editor of Latest Art.  
www.londonconsortium.com/about/studentbios.htm#meacher*

**RUTH RIX (b.1942)**

Ruth Rix, Phoenix Studios, Brighton. Born Leamington Spa 1942 to Jewish refugees. Trained Central and Leeds.

Oil on canvas; mixed media on paper. Influences include Bill Viola, Tarkovsky, Tapes. Themes: often staircases, landings, shifting rooms and spaces; figures sometimes present, often absent, leaving only resonances.

Great-niece of Austria's grand dame of letters Ilse Aichinger; grew up in the company of Anna Mahler, Elias Canetti etc; 2 Years in Fritz Wotruba's studio in Vienna. Patrons are heavyweight, longstanding, discerning and very private. Why isn't her work in the Tate and why isn't she famous? Too busy exploring and painting to seek the limelight.

*www.ruthrix.com  
aladin/CEO alkhemi  
aladin is a trouble-maker who long ago gave himself permission to roam. He was persuaded by Mayor Ken Livingstone to develop London's inaugural cultural strategy between 2000-4.  
www.alkhemi.com  
www.bookofcool.com and Deepak Chopra's IntentBlog*

**LINDER**

It is difficult to select one, but my favourite woman artist at the moment is Linder. She has been a seminal (no pun intended) figure on the avant garde music scene, well known for her punk photocollages for the Buzzcocks, Sex Pistols and Ian Curtis. For decades her work was sadly obscured, but a new publication, *Linder: Works 1976-2006* (published by jrp/ringier), means that now her practice will receive the



Linder