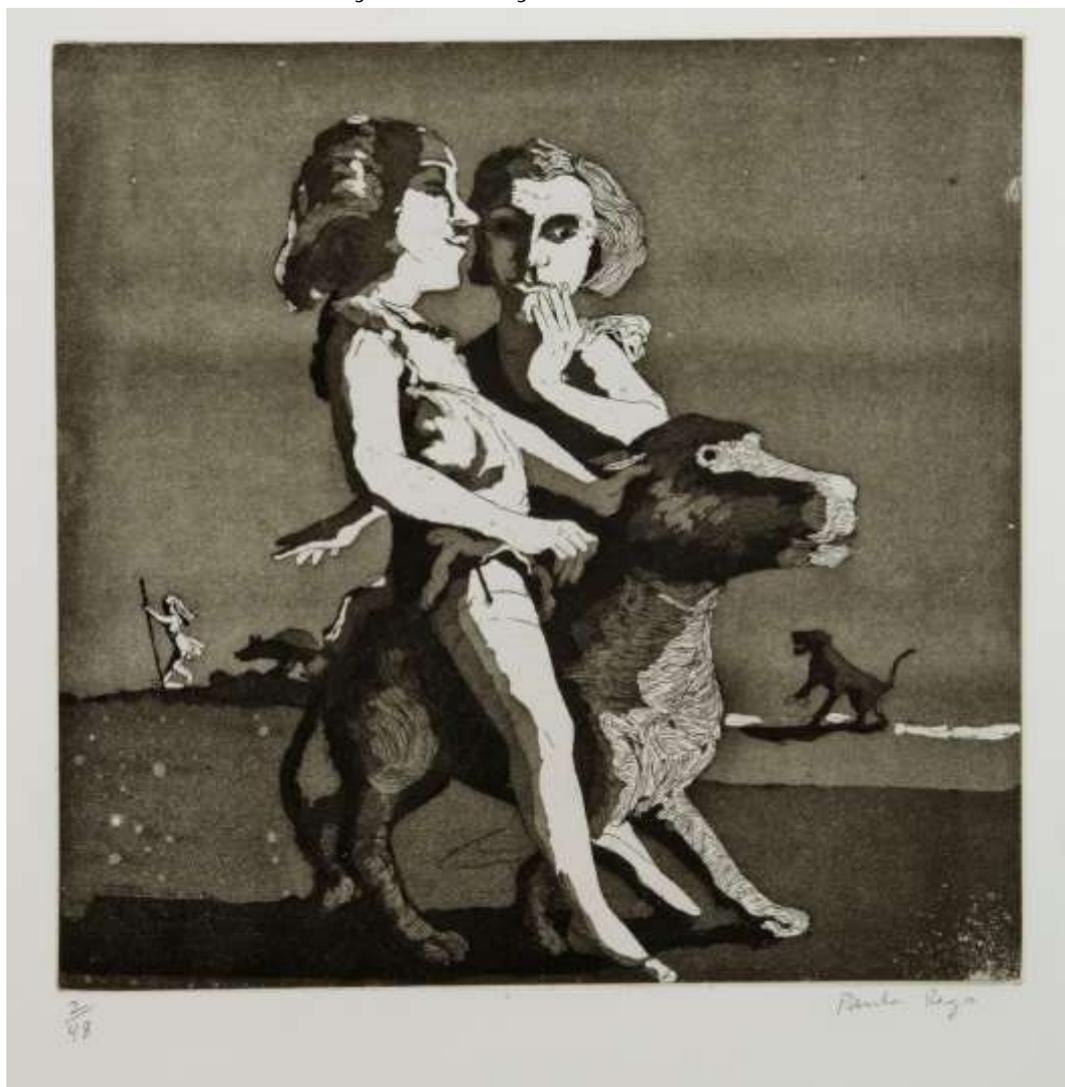


Press Release: November 2022

PAULA REGO | AT ARNOLFINI IN 2022

Exhibition dates are 5 February to 29 May 2022



Young Predators (from Girl and Dog series) Paula Rego 1987
Courtesy Paula Rego and Cristea Roberts Gallery, London © Paula Rego

Arnolfini are proud to present the work of Portuguese artist Dame Paula Rego RA - unarguably one of the most important figurative artists of her generation - delving into her extraordinary imagination and celebrating the alchemical process of printmaking that is as central to her practice today as it has always been.

Following on from the largest retrospective to date of the artist's work at Tate Britain (July to October 2021), and exhibitions with Cristea Roberts Gallery (new representatives of the artist's prints), Hogarth House and Museum de Reede, in

Belgium (both 2021) and Victoria Miro (late 2021) Rego returns to Arnolfini almost 40 years after her first exhibition with the gallery (in 1982-83), creating an opportunity **for a new generation of visitors to explore the artist's subversive stories.**

Featuring over 70 **prints from across Rego's extensive career**, the exhibition ventures **inside the artist's disquieting imagination in which she casts herself as storyteller and master puppeteer**, interweaving her wit and dark humour to reimagine stories old and new. **In Rego's world women loom monstrously large, repositioned as the protagonists and heroes** as she reinterprets classic tales, imbuing innocence with a darker sexuality, and instilling issues of gender, power, and politics with both light and shade.

Exploring printmaking as a process that informs **Rego's multi-layered interpretations**, **the exhibition looks deeper at Rego's mastery of the medium** (encompassing lithography, etching and screen print) as printmaking takes on a metaphorical meaning, bringing shadowy readings to childish mischief, whereas as the harrowing practices of illegal abortion or female genital mutilation are brought out into the light.

Drawing on Rego's childhood, familiar faces from past and present appear throughout, and dreams and nightmares come alive through the immediacy of the medium; its **spontaneity feeding Rego's constant curiosity and vivid imagination**. This celebration **of the artist's enduring appeal reveals the multi-layered and magical language of printmaking, creating surreal and subversive stories with not so 'wicked' women at their heart.**

Rego comments: **"I have very fond memories of showing at the Arnolfini in 1983 and am looking forward to showing my prints there next year. When the prints are shown well, their stories dominate, so I'm very interested to see how it all comes together."**

Paula Rego is represented by Cristea Roberts Gallery, the worldwide representative for her original prints and Victoria Miro, representatives of original works.

The exhibition will be open Tuesday to Sunday each week, 11am to 6pm, entry is free and will be bookable in advance via arnolfini.org.uk.

- ends -

For further information please contact Sara Blair sara.blair@arnolfini.org.uk

Additional images are available at <https://bit.ly/PaulaRegoArnolfini>

Twitter / Facebook / Instagram / www.arnolfini.org.uk

LISTINGS

Paula Rego at Arnolfini

5 February to 29 May 2022

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300 arnolfini.org.uk @ArnolfiniArts
Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm, bookable in advance. Free

Arnolfini are proud to present the work of Paula Rego, unarguably one of the most important figurative artists of her generation. Featuring over 70 prints from across **Rego's extensive career, the exhibition ventures inside the artist's** extraordinary imagination in which she casts herself as storyteller and master puppeteer, interweaving her wit and dark humour to reimagine stories old and new.

<https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/paularego2022/>

#PaulaRego #Arnolfini

Images here: <https://bit.ly/PaulaRegoArnolfini>

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Paula Rego

Dame Paula Rego RA was born in Lisbon in 1935. After attending finishing school in Kent, England, she studied at the Slade School of Art in London between 1952–56. In 1957 she returned to live in Portugal with her husband, the painter Victor Willing, and their three children, before finally settling in London in 1963. Rego came to prominence in Britain after her first major solo exhibition at the Air Gallery, London, in 1981 and subsequently at the Serpentine Gallery, London in 1988, which was followed by her becoming the first National Gallery artist in residence in 1990.

Rego explores themes of power, rebellion, sexuality and gender, grief and poverty, often through female protagonists. One of the most important figurative artists of her generation, her work ranges from painting, pastel, and prints to sculptural installations.

Rego made her first prints, experimenting with etching in the 1950s, at the Slade School of Art. In the 1980s she began to focus more closely on the medium and has since produced a profound body of work as a printmaker, including her coveted series *The Nursery Rhymes*, 1989, a group of over 30 etchings that are housed in major museum collections all over the world. From 1991 to 1996 the Arts Council of England and the British Council toured this body of work to venues in the UK, USA, Spain, Portugal and Asia. Her prints not only possess the extraordinary imaginative power of her paintings, but reflect the innovative possibilities of the medium through her

experimentation with etching, lithography and aquatint, often employing hand-colouring in the process.

Amongst her numerous awards and honours, Rego has represented Britain and Portugal at the São Paulo Biennale and has received honorary doctorates from Oxford and Cambridge Universities and from the Rhode Island School of Design in the US. In 2010 she was made a Dame of the British Empire and won the MAPFRE Foundation Drawing Prize in Madrid. In 2016 she was elected a Senior Royal Academician and in 2019 she received the Portuguese Government's Medal of Cultural Merit. In 2017 the BBC broadcast a documentary, *Paula Rego: Secrets and Stories*, directed by Rego's son, Nick Willing, which provided a unique insight into the artist's life and work.

In 2006 the Portuguese government commissioned a museum dedicated to Rego which opened in 2009. The Casa das Histórias Paula Rego, located in a district outside Lisbon, permanently houses **Rego's entire collection of over 200 prints alongside** drawings, preparatory works and paintings loaned by the artist. Major solo exhibitions **of Rego's work have recently taken place at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin**, which toured from the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh and MK Gallery, Milton Keynes (2019-2020); **Musée de L'Orangerie, Paris (2018); La Virreina** Centro de la Imagen, Barcelona (2018); Jerwood Gallery, Hastings (2017); Pallant House, Chichester (2017).

Prior to this Rego had been accorded solo exhibitions and retrospectives at the Gulbenkian Foundation, Paris (2012); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, which toured to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C; (2007); Serralves Museum, Porto (2004); Tate Britain, London (2004); Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal and the Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut (2001); Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (1998); Tate Liverpool (1997); National Gallery, London (1991); Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon (1988); Serpentine Gallery, London (1988). Her work is housed in major public and museum collections all over the world.

About Arnolfini

Arnolfini is Bristol's International Centre for Contemporary Arts located on the harbourside in the heart of the city. Arnolfini is an independent charity (CIO) and part of the University of the West of England, Bristol, supported by Arts Council England and the Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust.

Woven into the fabric of Bristol since 1961, Arnolfini is a pioneer of interdisciplinary contemporary arts, presenting an ambitious, eclectic programme of visual art, performance, dance, film, and music, designed to appeal to a broad audience.

Housed in a prominent Grade II listed, accessible building on Bristol's harbourside, Arnolfini is an inspiring public space for contemporary arts and learning, greeting over half a million visitors each year and offering an innovative, inclusive, and engaging experience for all.

An internationally-renowned institution, throughout its **history Arnolfini's programme** has welcomed artists from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds, supporting and developing their work, and investigating their influences and aspirations.

Arnolfini has long-standing relationships with a wide range of community and creative partners at both local and international scale and celebrate the heritage and wide-reaching impact of the organisation through sharing a 60-year archive of exhibition slides, publications, and artist book collection.

Since 2019, Director Gary Topp and team have sought to honour Arnolfini's founder Jeremy Rees' principle to 'Enjoy Yourself'; welcoming everyone into the space, and inviting engagement with the wide-ranging programme, in any number of ways.

About UWE

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) has a global and inclusive outlook, with approximately 30,000 students and strong industry networks and connections with over 1,000 employers. Research at UWE Bristol focuses on real world problems and the University plays a pivotal role in the regional economy. With over £300 million invested in infrastructure, buildings and facilities across all Campuses, UWE Bristol is creating a place for learning that is innovative, ambitious, connected, enabling and inclusive. UWE Bristol is ranked 21st in the Guardian university league table, as well as 7th in the UK for student satisfaction, and has been

awarded the highest possible rating in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) 2018, achieving GOLD Standard.

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

About Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust

Arnolfini Gallery is supported by a linked charity, the Ashley Clinton Barker Mills Trust (ACBMT). Arnolfini founders Jeremy and Annabel Rees were first introduced to the artists and benefactors Peter and Caroline Barker-Mill in 1963, by the London gallerist Lesley Waddington. It was a fortuitous meeting that was the catalyst in allowing Arnolfini to develop from a small volunteer-run private gallery into a major **international arts centre. The Trust's principle object is to 'support' Arnolfini and it** does this primarily by making annual grants from the income earned on its investments to make quarterly payments. It has also been able to make small fund one- off capital grants to help the Arnolfini transition to its current financial model. www.arnolfini.org.uk/about/ashley-clinton-barker-mills-trust