

## Millie Griffiths: Review by Anthony Fawcett

Millie Griffiths is, surprisingly for me, with more than fifty years in our “global art world,” a pure surprise! Discovering her wonderful canvases, I immediately thought she must be a West Coast Californian painter, who had probably studied with Richard Diebenkorn or perhaps Helen Frankenthaler? That she is a young British painter who studied at our UAL schools left me almost speechless, falling off my trickery chair.

Her oeuvre is so exquisite, masterful, it is very hard to write about her work. I love how she describes her paintings as “Fragmented Narratives.” Also, I could not quite understand why she calls her work ‘abstract,’ as they are anything but that! Her paintings reflect her young life’s journey, which is remarkable at her relatively young age.

Griffiths’ paintings are highly accomplished, and singularly her own work, but with deep undercurrent nods, references to a few of her favorite artists, Georgia O’Keeffe, Chris Ofili, and Basquiat. I feel she is truly a modern ‘old master’!

Millie Griffiths’ sublime canvases, whilst being very complex, transport us to many magical worlds, a liminal world where we could be both in the nostalgic past or on a future planet. Perhaps she was born in the wrong decade?

I have rarely seen such an accomplished painter at such a young age. But surely her star is in the ascendency? Griffiths is what I would call “an artists’ artist.”

Her canvases sing with deep felt emotion, although she calls her oeuvre ‘abstract,’ they are anything but—figures, faces, stare out at us, from perhaps her dreams, her fears, her friends? I will have to wait to talk to her in her studio.

Perhaps Millie Griffiths was born in the wrong era or country, but her highly accomplished paintings, I think, speak to us all across the millennium. As other writers have postulated: “to bear witness, to leave a trace,” she has accomplished this. And I look forward to following her future trajectory, as I think it will be awesome.

-Anthony Fawcett