

Victoria Miro

Saskia Colwell: *Skin on Skin*

Exhibition: 1 February–15 March 2025

Victoria Miro Venice, San Marco 1994, 30124 Venice, Italy



Saskia Colwell
Mask Off, 2024
Charcoal on vellum mounted board
45 x 40 cm
17 3/4 x 15 3/4 in
© Saskia Colwell
Courtesy the artist

Victoria Miro is delighted to present *Skin on Skin* by London-based artist Saskia Colwell. In 2019, the gallery established a studio in Venice for invited artists to spend extended time in the historic city and make new bodies of work. During a two-month residency in Spring 2024, Colwell began a series of charcoal works on vellum which she later completed in her London studio.

The new body of work in *Skin on Skin* explores themes of voyeurism, intimacy and representation. The interplay between the softness of charcoal and the organic quality of vellum creates a close connection to the human body in images which question norms surrounding female representation and contemporary issues of censorship and agency.

Colwell's works deliberately blur stylistic, visual, and formal lines, as Hannah Hutchings-Georgiou defines in a newly commissioned essay: 'Existing at the interstices of the private and the public, the intimate and the distant, the licit and the illicit, the delicate and the crude, the classical and the contemporary, Colwell's drawings profess innocence even when they are ripe with knowing. Bordering on sculpted exactitude when completed in the softest of chalks and charcoal powder, her work delivers one thing, only to dare us to unwrap, to see, to touch, another'.

About the artist

Born in 1999 in London, where she currently lives and works, Saskia Colwell graduated from the Masters Painting Programme at the Royal College of Art in 2023. In 2022 she completed a BA (Hons) in Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art and, in 2018, the Foundation Year at the Royal Drawing School.

Her work has been included in several group exhibitions including *LEDA and the SWAN: a myth of creation and destruction*, curated by Minna Moore Ede and presented by Vortic in collaboration with Victoria Miro, London (2024), *VAMPIRE::MOTHER* curated by Jasmine Wahj in collaboration with Anat Ebgi Gallery, Los Angeles (2024), *Conscious Unconscious* at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London (2023) and *Summer Lovin'* curated by Joan Tucker and Henry Relph at Stems Gallery, Paris (2022). Colwell's work is in a number of private collections.

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