



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

The Bright Eyes of Children

15–17 October 2026 | 41 Whitfield Street, Fitzrovia, London W1T 2SG

Private view: Thursday 15 October, 5–9pm | Open daily 10am–9pm during Frieze Week London

During Frieze Week London, OCD Gallery presents *The Bright Eyes of Children*, a six-artist exhibition bringing together Selena Corsellis, Talia Golchin, Luke Hamel Cooke, Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka, William Lowry and Atalanta Xanthe. Opening on Thursday 15th October 2026 and continuing through 17th October, the exhibition takes place at 41 Whitfield Street, Fitzrovia, in the nineteenth-century building that housed part of Pollock's Toy Museum for more than fifty years.

The Bright Eyes of Children considers a way of looking that artists spend entire careers protecting: curiosity before certainty, attention before interpretation, and the instinct to make before the need to explain. It is neither an exhibition about childhood nor a nostalgic one, but an encounter with the directness and openness suggested by its title. Across six practices that differ markedly in material, method and subject, the exhibition asks how an unguarded way of seeing might remain both vital and rigorous.

Spanning painting, sculpture, printmaking and works on paper, the artists approach making through processes that are tactile, exacting and often deeply personal. Hand-built forms sit alongside quiet interiors, etched surfaces, handmade paper and theatrical compositions; elsewhere, myth, memory, the body and inherited craft traditions become ways of examining the present. Rather than proposing a single aesthetic or narrative, the exhibition brings these practices into conversation through a shared attentiveness to material and image. Together, they suggest that openness of vision need not mean simplicity, and that looking closely can itself be a rigorous way of understanding the world.

In place of white walls, the exhibition occupies a house of uneven floors, narrow staircases, bare plaster and accumulated layers of paint. Where the conventional gallery seeks to remove context, *The Bright Eyes of Children* allows it in. Works appear at a domestic scale and in direct conversation with the fabric of the building, each holding its own within rooms already marked by use, history and character.

The building brings with it a particular history of making. Once part of the neighbouring pub, it formed one half of Pollock's Toy Museum from 1970 until the end of 2022, its shopfront painted in tribute to Benjamin Pollock's original Theatrical Print Warehouse. Pollock's preserved the tradition of the Victorian toy theatre: sheets of characters and scenery printed from engraved plates and sold "a penny plain and twopence coloured", giving children the means to build and colour their own miniature theatre, and adults the means to buy their childhood back.

That history resonates quietly throughout the exhibition. Traditions of print, paper, handwork and theatrical construction reappear in new forms across the artists' practices without becoming the exhibition's subject. The connection is allowed to emerge through the rooms themselves. Here, the building is not simply a backdrop but an active part of how the work is encountered.

The exhibition takes its title from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1884 essay *A Penny Plain and Twopence Coloured*, his celebration of the toy theatre and the imaginative world surrounding it:

"If you love art, folly, or the bright eyes of children, speed to Pollock's..."

"The white box of the modern gallery asks art to behave. These rooms don't. We've brought together artists who retain something immediate and unguarded in the way they look and make, and put their work somewhere with enough history and character to meet it on equal terms."

Oscar Sunderland, Director, OCD Gallery

LISTINGS INFORMATION

EXHIBITION	<i>The Bright Eyes of Children</i>
ARTISTS	Selena Corsellis, Talia Golchin, Luke Hamel Cooke, Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka, William Lowry, Atalanta Xanthe
DATES	Thursday 15 – Saturday 17 October 2026
OPENING HOURS	10am–9pm daily
PRIVATE VIEW	Thursday 15 October, 5–9pm
VENUE	41 Whitfield Street, Fitzrovia, London W1T 2SG
ONLINE	oscarchloedirectory.com

THE ARTISTS

Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka — Japanese-Canadian artist based in Toronto, working with printmaking, handmade washi, ink, natural dyes and sewing to make large-scale print installations, sculpture and wearable paper garments. Recurring motifs of landscape, fish and water address memory, survival and resilience. She is a participating artist in In Minor Keys, the 61st Venice Biennale (2026), and her work is notably held by the British Museum, the National Gallery of Canada and National Gallery Singapore.

Talia Golchin — British-Iranian artist based in London, working across painting, sculpture and digital media, where innocence and play meet the bodily, visceral and primal. A graduate of the MA Fine Art at Central Saint Martins (2021), her solo exhibition *Umbilics* was shown at Livie Gallery, Zurich (2023), and her work has appeared at Art Basel and Frieze London (2022) and ARCO Lisbon (2023).

Luke Hamel Cooke — London-based sculptor working in clay and bronze. Building forms by hand, without tools, he explores growth, regeneration and physis: the inherent impulse of things to become. This will be his third exhibition with OCD following a New York debut and Satellite Exhibition during the 61st Venice Biennale (2026).

Selena Corsellis — London-based painter working in a traditional oil technique. Her unpeopled domestic interiors, built from light, shadow and the threshold between inside and outside, hold the atmosphere of a half-remembered place. A first-class Fine Art graduate of Leeds Arts University (2024), she has twice exhibited in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition (2023, 2025) and held her first solo exhibition, *Close But Not Quite*, in London in 2026.

William Lowry — Artist based between London and Oxford whose drawing-led practice spans etching, print, sculpture and installation, examining masculinity, memory and myth through the symbolic language of architecture. A graduate of the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, and the Slade School of Fine Art (MFA, 2026), he won the New English Art Club's Hermione Hammond Drawing Award in 2025.

Atalanta Xanthe — London-based painter working in oil, acrylagouache and gold leaf, grounded in extensive drawing. Her fantastical, theatrical compositions take a feminist approach to history painting, drawing on medieval manuscripts, stagecraft and popular culture. She studied at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, and the New York Academy of Art, has shown solo at Alice Black, London (2022, 2024), and is in the Ruth Borchard Collection.

ABOUT OCD GALLERY

OCD Gallery (Oscar Chloe Directory) is a nomadic contemporary art platform founded by art historians and curators Oscar Sunderland and Chloe Stewart. Rather than holding a fixed address, it travels with its artists between cities and settings, staging exhibitions that question where art belongs and how it is encountered, and championing practices that cross disciplines and resist easy categorisation. Its programme includes Leopoldo Goût's *Muscle Memory* across two London sites (2025), *The Next Room* in New York (2026) and *Within Change* staged in Palazzo da Mosto during the 61st Venice Biennale (2026).

PRESS ENQUIRIES

For interviews, further information on the artists and artworks with high-resolution images, please contact info@oscarchloedirectory.com