Rosalind Nashashibi Large Print Wall Text

This exhibition is the largest UK presentation to date of paintings by London-based artist Rosalind Nashashibi. For the past two decades, Nashashibi has shown her films internationally, though in recent years she has increasingly returned to painting, which she initially studied while at art school in Sheffield.

The exhibition title, *Hooks*, refers to the mechanism for closing a window shutter, as well as to the hook in a song, a refrain that niggles or soothes. These works are punctuated by an associative chain of symbols and animals — a cross becomes a bowtie that becomes a moth or a pair of cat’s ears — and are crisscrossed by fences and walls. Figures peer through shuttered windows; gazes are filtered or partially obscured. Luminous and fragmented, these paintings are concerned less with clear narratives than with seeping atmospheres, by turns erotic and frustrated.

Nashashibi notes that, ‘‘whenever you start to make a painting or decide on shots in a film, there are lots of other paintings and films running through your head”. The motifs and gestures in *Hooks* spring from myriad sources. These include the 15th- century Florentine artist Paolo Uccello; portraits by Edgar Degas and Édouard Manet; a boat scene by Otto Muehler, who was part of the expressionist movement Die Brücke. Other motifs are drawn from film, theatre (Malvolio, from Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*, is one refrain), as well as from Nashashibi’s own family and friends. But specific references matter less than the ways in which these paintings emanate from images and ideas lighted upon in Nashashibi’s studio. These are works bound up with the matter of thinking and talking, with a certain way of looking at the world.

**EXHIBITION CREDITS**

Rosalind Nashashibi, *Hooks* is curated by Sam Thorne, Director General & CEO of Japan House London (former Director, Nottingham Contemporary).

Unless otherwise stated, all works courtesy the artist and GRIMM, Amsterdam, New York, London.

The exhibition is generously supported by GRIMM gallery. Exhibition graphics by Åbäke.

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Wednesday 15 February, 12pm

Welcome walkthrough
Explore the exhibition with our team and join us for refreshments and conversation in the café afterwards.

**12.30pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, starting 21 February**

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