Helen Grundy

'Bird Land' (2024), Digital Collage

Helen Grundy's work has a strong narrative quality and is informed by discard studies, which encompass themes such as waste, the environment and power. She often uses humour to explore difficult subjects, considering her artworks as souvenirs from a world that she has created.

Through the dreamlike collage 'Bird Land', Grundy has paid homage to Emmy Bridgwater's love of birds, organic materials and eyes, in the form of the gaze. The late Surrealist herself appears part human, part bird, adorned with beautiful plumage and surrounded by a number of 'hatchlings'.

These hybrid creatures represent modern female artists who are inspired by Bridgwater and, unlike her, have the freedom to pursue art without limitations.

Grundy graduated from Birmingham School of Art in 2004. Identifying as a working-class artist, she has worked in homeless services in Birmingham for many years while developing her practice. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally, with shows at Sotheby's, London, Brighton and Hove Museum, and the New Art Gallery Walsall, where her work has been acquired for the permanent collection. She was commissioned by Lubaina Himid CBE to create a billboard for 'Found Cities, Lost Objects: Women in the City'.

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