

BAROQUE ANARCHIST

NOR DREAD NOT HOPE ATTEND

*Paintings by Alexandra Suvorova and the
Reimagining of a Modern Vanitas*

2ND JUNE 2025 - 5TH SEPTEMBER 2025

PRIVATE VIEW 29TH MAY 2025

2 GRESHAM STREET, LONDON, EC2V 7BX

We are pleased to present *Nor Dread Nor Hope Attend*, a collection of paintings by Baroque Anarchist, the alter ego of artist Alexandra Suvorova. Exploring the existential struggle with mortality, Baroque Anarchist evokes the historical legacy of vanitas and memento mori, reinterpreting them through contemporary perspectives.

Whilst memento mori serves as a moral reminder of mortality -encouraging reflection on the afterlife and the importance of living a virtuous life- vanitas paintings focus more specifically on emphasizing the inevitability of death and the futility of earthly pleasures. Particularly popular during the Dutch Golden Age, vanitas paintings often featured symbolic objects like skulls, hourglasses, and wilting flowers to emphasize the transient nature of existence and the ultimate emptiness of material wealth.

In *Nor Dread Nor Hope Attend*, Suvorova reimagines these enduring themes of death and mortality through a contemporary lens, incorporating elements of modern science, personal loss, and the human body's inherent fragility. Her paintings blend traditional old master techniques such as tenebrism and grisaille with contemporary subjects, creating a dialogue between past and present. Through these layers of compositions, techniques, and woven references, we're encouraged to look beyond the surfaces of her paintings and see

deeper truths; that even in an age of technological advancement and scientific wonder, the human struggle with impermanence and mortality remains universal. In doing so, she invites viewers to confront their own mortality and consider the enduring relevance of these historical themes in a rapidly changing world.

Baroque Anarchist: Nor Dread Not Hope Attend is organised by Felstead Art and curated by Michael Wormack. All general and sales enquiries to be directed to Felstead Art.

Specialising in modern and contemporary art and prints, Felstead Art works with both British and international artists, maintaining a particular focus on representing East London artists. Through its collaboration with corporate partners, the gallery curates multiple exhibition programmes across locations in East London and the City of London.

VISITOR INFORMATION



Felstead Art | Gresham
Mon - Fri: 9am-5pm
Sat - Sun: Closed
Nearest station: St. Paul's

(+44) 02086162292
info@felsteadart.com
www.felsteadart.com
Socials: @felsteadart #felsteadart

QR link for up-to-date information

12 FELSTEAD STREET, LONDON
[INFO@FELSTEADART.COM](mailto:info@felsteadart.com)
02086162292 | 07835277709
WWW.FELSTEADART.COM

FELSTEAD ART

CONTEMPORARY & MODERN

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

BAROQUE ANARCHIST (Russian, b. 1986)

Alexandra Suvorova, known by one of her artistic monikers as Baroque Anarchist, is a London-based visual artist whose work delves into the intersections of mortality, science, and art. Born in Moscow during the 1986 Chernobyl Disaster, Suvorova's early experiences instilled in her a profound fascination with the exploration for immortality and the vulnerabilities of the human body.

Suvorova holds an extensive multidisciplinary academic history. She earned her BFA in painting and MFA in stage and costume design from the Surikov Art Institute in Moscow. In 2012, she obtained a degree in contemporary painting from Moscow's Institute of Contemporary Art Issues and was awarded a PhD in Theatre Design from the Department of Painting at the Russian Art Academy in Moscow, where she designed 80 costumes for a production of Hamlet at the Central Academic Theatre.

Suvorova's painting practice is deeply rooted in the Baroque tradition, characterized by meticulous techniques and layered compositions. She adheres to the rigorous methods of the old masters, beginning with compositional sketches, followed by detailed drawings, grisaille underpaintings, and, when necessary, layers of colour. This labour-intensive process allows her to achieve a fleshy materiality in her works, often enlarging biological fragments to create large-scale paintings that stand at the crossroads of mythology, science fiction, feminist theory, and anarchism.

Since relocating to London in 2019, Suvorova has expanded her artistic repertoire to include installation

art, painting on clothing, and interactive performances. Between different creative alter egos, Suvorova attempts to transcend the confines of the canvas, blurring the line between art and viewer. Drawing inspiration from avant-garde theatre, fashion icons like Alexander McQueen and Vivienne Westwood, and contemporary artists such as Ana Mendieta, Suvorova's art challenges traditional boundaries and invites audiences into immersive experiences.

Alexandra Suvorova has had numerous exhibitions across Europe and the United States, including solo shows at the Museum of Russian Painting and the Darwin Museum of Natural History. Her work continues to provoke thought and dialogue, bridging the gap between historical artistic traditions and contemporary societal issues.

12 FELSTEAD STREET, LONDON
INFO@FELSTEADART.COM
02086162292 | 07835277709
WWW.FELSTEADART.COM