

Debut Solo Exhibition for Australian Artist in London

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by Robyn Harper

Australian artist, *Very Valerie Ellis*, exhibits contemporary paintings in her UK debut solo show at Espacio Gallery in the heart of the East End, through the first week of November.

Espacio's main gallery features Valerie's latest collection, entitled **Touch Me**, in abstract-expressionist style. The **Touch Me** paintings use only two of the fundamental pictorial elements: colour and brushstroke. Valerie Ellis wanted to "remove all figuration and try to touch the viewer through only the quality of the brushstroke itself." Painted during lockdown, the 11 artworks are an invitation to those deprived of physical touch during 2020, to feel touched by viewing alone.

Valerie's innate artistic talent was shaped by a 20 year career in psychology which is similarly concerned with the abstract-symbolic, the expression of the inner world and with interpersonal connection.

Valerie achieved the highest grade for art in the country when she graduated from secondary school, but left home in England and studied psychology in Australia. After 20 years in psychotherapy - including a maximum-security men's prison - Valerie returns to the UK to resume her artistic destiny.

In addition to **Touch Me**, the downstairs gallery houses '**Faces**' - a sample of the artist's figurative drawings and paintings.

View the **Touch Me** exhibition Monday 2 to Sunday 8 November (11am-7pm) at Espacio Gallery, 159 Bethnal Green Road, London, E2 7DG. 5 minutes from Shoreditch Station and 100m from Brick Lane. Admission is free.

For further details go to: www.veryvalerieellis.com or www.espaciogallery.com

Media enquiries contact: P: 07902 871 326 E: Reception@VeryValerieEllis.com