

Cristina Rodriguez

The Carnival of the Animals



The Carnival of the Animals

based on the music of Camille Saint-Saëns

Cristina Rodriguez has been living and working in London since 1989. Her paintings, imbued with the powerful colours and sculptural forms of her native Colombia, take their inspiration from a wide variety of subjects, such as poetry, literature, music and her own life and travels.

The series of twenty-two paintings on exhibition at the Pump House Gallery is inspired by the music of Camille Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals* which the composer wrote in 1886. When Cristina listened to the music for the first time, a powerful mélange of images of colourful birds, elephants, cuckoos in the woods, wild asses, sad tortoises and pleasant lions took shape in her imagination. She was fascinated by the variety of ingenious musical devices the composer used to sketch each animal.

Cristina's ability to transform her tangible subject-matter into a magical dream-scape renders her work unique, subtly titillating her audience. The present series of paintings epitomises Cristina's elaboration of a visual language that combines spontaneity with a magical cohesion of shapes and colours. The sensual quality of her paintings, accentuated by the liberally applied oil paint that creates a richly textured surface, is at one with the juxtaposition of real and surreal, of everyday and magic, of perceptible landscapes rooted in reality and surreal dream-scapes.

Through her command of a brilliantly coloured palette, Cristina takes the viewer on a wonderful magical voyage created by her vivid imagination. As she herself says, each one of her paintings tells a story. Influenced by her rich cultural heritage that combines the mysterious world of pre-Colombian civilisation with western history, Cristina fuses in her paintings the world's perceptible forms with many fantastic creatures, in a colourful carousel of carefully delineated shapes and spaces.

L. C. 1997

For further information, or details of other work, please contact Cristina Rodriguez:
e. cristina.rodriguez@btinternet.com | www.cristina-rodriguez.com

Cover image: *The Arrival at the Pump House Gallery*, 111 x 71 cm
All images 1997, oil on linen.



The Royal March of the Lion
111 x 86 cm



Hens and Cockerels
111 x 86 cm



Wild Asses
137 x 81 cm



Tortoises
137 x 81 cm



The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods, 111 x 71 cm



The Elephant
111 x 86 cm



Kangaroos
111 x 86 cm



Aquarium
137 x 81 cm



Persons with Long Ears
137 x 81 cm



The Aviary
111 x 71 cm



Pianists
111 x 71 cm



Fossils
111 x 71 cm



The Swan
111 x 152 cm



And They Lived Happily In The Garden Of Eden
111 x 152 cm