

shocked into presence

An exhibition of paintings by Joanna Jones

Curated by Nicolas Deshayes

September 2023 at The Citadel, Dover

Joanna Jones makes paintings with her belly, like a snail leaving a trail, she works in her attic studio with the roof on her back.

Her works are ethereal layers of opaque and translucent colour applied to cloth like swathes of ectoplasm, the viscous substance that exudes from the body of a medium in trance when manifesting spirits.

Jones first came to Dover in the late 1940s, travelling with her mother to its shoreline from where they continued their journey to holiday in the south of France. Her mother's energy lightened when they reached Dover, and the town has since symbolised the gateway to Joanna's 'other world'. She returned in 1997, making a nest for herself here in the clouds above the port.

Ever since, she has used egg tempera as her medium, in patterns that spool and marble like an omelette gently lifting against the edges of a pan. Pigment is mixed into the yolk and applied to canvas directly with her skin. Her compositions are created through touch, not sight: after giving birth to her own daughter in 1973 she knew she wanted to physically feel what she was creating.

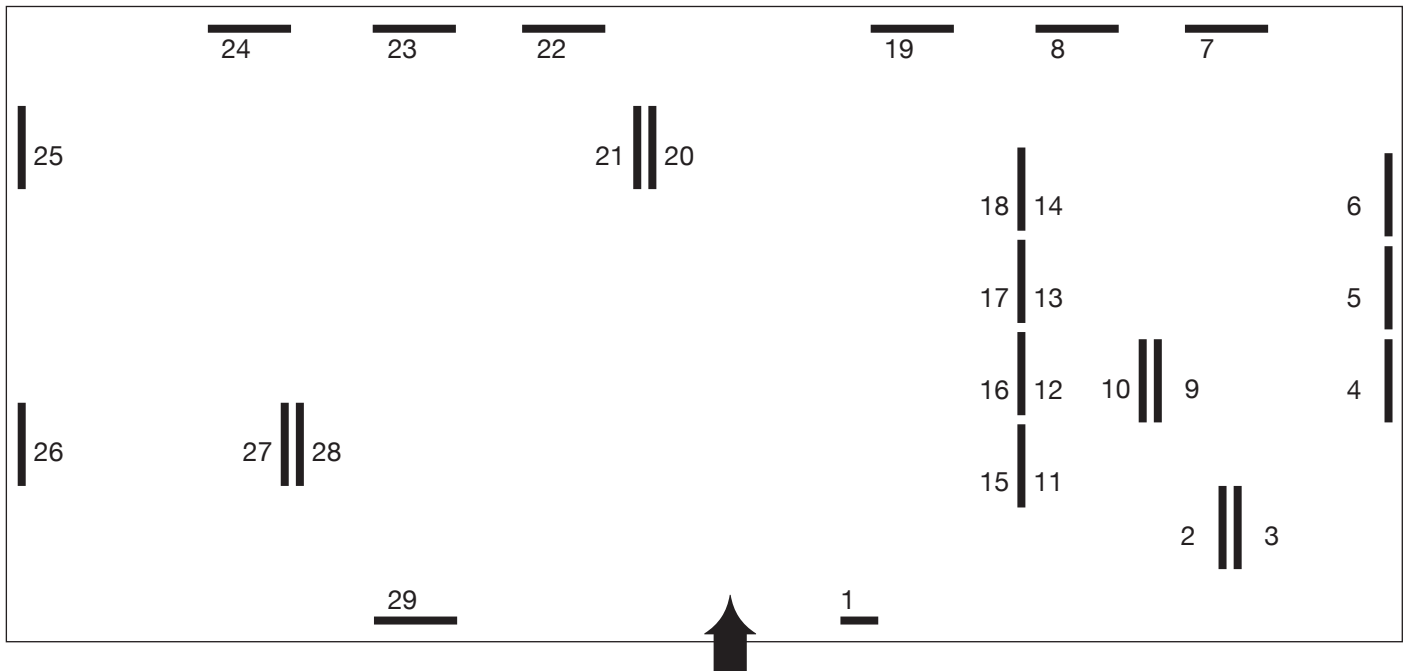
With the remaining egg whites, Joanna makes *tuiles aux amandes*, biscuits shaped liked miniature roof tiles that she curves on the back of a broomstick – the same broomstick we used to clean this exhibition space, a former canteen sited on Dover's highest point.

For this exhibition I have chosen works from 1983 through to 2023 that reflect the different stages of Joanna's practice and the influence of Dover on her work. Beginning with *Feet*, 1983 - the imprint of her soles on the ground - and ending with *Space Odyssey*, 1995, monumental early works are shown against newer denser compositions in a timeline that slides through different states of matter: from the mineral (steel), to the bodily (blood) through to the elemental (water, steam, cloud).

Nicolas Deshayes
2023

P.T.O.

list of works



1. Feet, 1983
2. Blue Black, 1991
3. Black, Gold, Red, 1991
4. Eisen, 1989
5. Eisen, 1989
6. Eisen, 1989
7. Untitled, 1997
8. Charité, 1996
9. I am bringing something with me #9, 2020
10. I am bringing something with me #10, 2020
11. I am bringing something with me #8, 2020
12. I am bringing something with me #5, 2020
13. I am bringing something with me #2, 2020
14. I am bringing something with me #4, 2020
15. I am bringing something with me #7, 2020
16. I am bringing something with me #1, 2020
17. I am bringing something with me #3, 2020
18. I am bringing something with me #6, 2020

19. Untitled, 1995
20. Charité II, 1996
21. Shocked into presence, 2023
22. Towards a cloth of gold, 2022
23. Make a friend of doubt, 2023
24. I feel you feeling me #2, 2022
25. It tickled her pink, 1993
26. I feel you feeling me #1, 2022
27. And did time just fly past? #2, 2011
28. And did time just fly past? #1, 2011
29. Space Odyssey, 1995

In the red brick water tower between the entrance gate and the exhibition venue:

30. Towards a cloth of gold #2, 2022

All works courtesy of the artist.