

GNYP GALLERY

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 23, 2024

Elsa Rouy  
*Ephialtes*

**Elsa Rouy**  
*Ophelia*  
2024

acrylic, ink, bleach and  
charcoal on canvas

165 x 200 cm  
65 x 78 3/4 in





Installation shot of Elsa Rouy's exhibition Ephialtes at GNYG Gallery Antwerp in 2024



# Elsa Rouy

## *Ephialtes*

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 23, 2024

Ephialtes.

Noun, a nightmare.

GNYP is excited to present *Ephialtes*; an exhibition of new works by London-based artist Elsa Rouy.

*Ephialtes* delves into the idea of the incubus; a folkloric demon figure that disturbs and violates the sleep of an unsuspecting dreamer. Rouy uses this demonic 'incubus' figure, cited in early medical history as the main cause of nightmares and sleep paralysis, to explore themes around the grotesque body, psychology and sexuality.

In *Ephialtes*, Rouy's works inhabit the realm of the nightmarish and the abject. Throughout the show, human forms are contorted and wrenched into misshapen, grotesque forms. Rouy's figures are manic and frenzied; they enter into a warped corporeality and teeter on the unknowable border between life and death. Throughout *Ephialtes*, it is unsure whether the figures on display are the victims of the nightmare or the ones enacting it. In one sense, the shapes of the figures remind the viewer of the violent tossing and turning of a person experiencing a particularly disturbing or traumatic dream. At the same time, these distorted bodies could quite easily be the haunting conjurations of an overactive sleeping mind; terrifying the unfortunate dreamer.

Elsa Rouy creates works of intense psychological depth. Through painting, she attempts to get to the heart of her own personal experience. With a queer lens she pulls from art history, objectifying and using the body as a tool to stage confused and conflicting narratives. *Ephialtes* touches on the fragility and power of the body to visually display compelling and complex emotional landscapes.

Jamie Hope

## Artist

### Elsa Rouy

#### Solo Exhibitions

##### 2024

Ephialtes  
GNYP Gallery, Antwerp (Belgium)

##### 2023

The Only Daughter  
Steve Turner, Los Angeles (USA)

##### 2022

I Could Always Crack a Joke  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

##### 2021

A Demon in a Sundress  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

##### 2020

Plastic Doesn't Sweat  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

Platform Elsa Rouy  
Unit London, London (UK)

#### Group Exhibitions

##### 2024

NEW NOW: Part 2  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

##### 2023

Bye Bye Cowboy  
Arusha Gallery, London (UK)

Saints and Sinners  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

Elsa Rouy & Emil Urbanek  
EIGEN + ART Lab, Berlin (Germany)

The Artist Is Present  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

(It's My Party) I Can Cry if I Want To  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

##### 2022

Human In Training  
Tuesday to Friday, Valencia (Spain)

There goes the neighbourhood  
Castor Gallery, London (UK)

'... and kneeling at the edge of the transparent sea I shall  
shape for myself a new heart from salt and mud'  
Kupfer Projects, London (UK)

Out of Nowhere  
Soho Revue, London (UK)

Two Sisters  
Roman Road Gallery, London (UK)

Damned If I Do  
Gallery 46 Whitechapel, London (UK)

CACOTOPIA 06  
Annka Kultys, London (UK)

##### 2021

Brain Food Charity Auction  
The Auction Collective, London (UK)

I Have My Eye On You  
Everyday Gallery, Antwerp (Belgium)

Reality Check,  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

Don't Go South  
Studio Berkheim, Stuttgart (Germany)

A New Art World  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

Introducing  
The Shop at Sadie Coles HQ, London (UK)

For the many Not the few  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

##### 2020

Limbo, Everyday Gallery  
Antwerp (Belgium)

Begin Again, Guts Gallery  
London (UK)

When spiders unite they can tie down a lion  
Daniel Raphael Gallery, London (UK)

Drawn Together  
Unit London, London (UK)

No time like the present  
Public Gallery, London (UK)

Guts Gallery Claps back  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

When Shit Hits The Fan (In The Artworld)  
Guts Gallery, London (UK)

# Elsa Rouy

Elsa Rouy describes her work as “a visual portrayal of abstruse emotions”. Her semi- biographical works transcend boundaries to explore the multifaceted experiences of womanhood. Rouy’s figurative canvases portray intimate moments of grotesque bodies that split and rupture, their separate skins seeping and melting into one another, while bodily fluids leak and intermingle. These figures consistently find themselves in situations that straddle the uneasy territory between suffering and pleasure. Through this, she addresses and navigates the anxieties associated with having and being aware of one’s own body. Rouy’s artwork attempts to explore the dynamics of societal and internal power structures.

Elsa Rouy graduated from Camberwell College of Art, her recent solo shows were at Guts Gallery, London and Steve Turner, Los Angeles. She was born in 2000 in Sittingbourne, UK, and lives and works in London.

## CONTACT & INQUIRIES

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