France-Lise McGurn
Biography

France-Lise McGurn was born in Glasgow, UK, in 1983.

Evading the boundaries of the traditional picture plane, McGurn often eschews the limits of her canvases by extending the imagery directly onto the gallery walls and furniture brought into the space, displacing her subject and creating an immersive environment. Instead of approaching a static painting, the artist activates the composition, allowing the figures and forms to be seen as though in a field of vision. Occasionally confrontational, sometimes passive, sometimes ecstatic, these characters shift through these emotions constantly reforming their personas.

Key themes in McGurn's work include music, dreams, memory and popular culture. Her visual sources have included 70s film stills, Janus fetish magazine, Botticelli prints and celebrity autographs. The works are developed intuitively via the artist's use of swift calligraphic brush marks and attention to the human form. Repeated lines and movement recall antiquity but are similarly influenced by Glasgow's post-industrial city aesthetic. With her paintings, McGurn builds loops through pastel colours, speed and fluid motion. Playing with ideas around circadian rhythms and familiarity her works un-stagnate and are experienced rather than seen.

McGurn lives and works in London. She received her MA in 2012 from the Royal College of Art, London, UK. In 2026, McGurn has a solo exhibition at DCA Dundee Contemporary Arts in Scotland, and in early 2027 she will unveil a two-year commission for the Rodin Museum in Philadelphia, USA.

Recent notable solo and two-person exhibitions include: Margot Samuel, New York (2023); Glasgow International, Glasgow (2021); Tramway, Glasgow (2020); Kunsthaus Pasquart, Biel (2020). Recent group shows include: Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow (2022); National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2021). McGurn's work is held in prominent public collections such as K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong; David Roberts Collection, London; New Hall Art Collection, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge; TATE, London; Zabludowicz Collection, London; Dallas Museum of Art Foundation, Texas; USA Hill Art Foundation, New York and Stiftung Kunsthaus-Sammlung Pasquart, Biel.

Solo exhibitions

2027

2027 - Kicking Silk: France-Lise McGurn at the Rodin, The Rodin Museum , Philadelphia , USA

2026

2026 - The Charm Offensive , curated by Beth Bate and Dan Brown , DCA Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee, UK. Catalogue
2026 - DEE-TOUR, DOMUSHAUS, Basel, CH

2025

2025 - Bad TV, MASSIMODECARLO, Hong Kong, HK

2024

2024 - Strawberry, MASSIMODECARLO, London, UK
2024 - What Everyone Wants, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, UK

2023

2023 - House of Voltaire Installation, Studio Voltaire, London, UK
2023 - Hostess, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK

2022

2022 - Hospitalrooms commission for Northside House, Norwich University of the Arts, Norwich, UK
2022 - Aloud, The Exposé, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK

2021

2021 - Aloud, commission for Glasgow International, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow, UK

2020

2020 - Bodytronic, Kunsthaus Pasquart, Biel, UK
2020 - In Emotia, Tramway, Glasgow, UK
2020 - Percussia, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK

2019

2019 - Art Now: France-Lise McGurn, Sleepless, Tate Britain, London, UK

2018

2018 - 0141, Frutta Gallery, Glasgow, UK

2017

2017 - Archaos, Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK
2017 - France-Lise McGurn, Recent Activity Gallery, Birmingham, UK

2015

2015 - 3am, Satellites Programme, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

Group exhibitions

2025

2025 - Winter Lights , curated by Cedar Lewisohn, Southbank centre , London , UK

2024

2024 - The Infinite Woman, Villa Carmignac, Porquerolles, F
2024 - Intimacy rarely makes sense of things, Shanghai Pond Society, Shanghai, PRC
2024 - West Bund Art & Design, Shanghai, PRC

2023

2023 - Threshold, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK
2023 - Spiritual Abstractions, Galería RGR, Mexico City, MEX
2023 - France-Lise McGurn and Rita McGurn, Matching Mother / Daughter Tattoos, Margot Samuel, New York, US

2022

2022 - Body en Thrall, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, Rugby, UK
2022 - Mark Making: Perspectives on Drawing, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, UK

2021

2021 - My Kid Could’ve Done That, The Edge, Bath, UK
2021 - New Arrivals: From Salvador Dali to Jenny Saville, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK

2020

2020 - Mira Dancy, France-Lise McGurn & Clare Woods, Simon Lee Gallery, New York, US

2019

2019 - Mark Making: Perspectives on Drawing, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, UK

2018

2018 - Foundation Painting Show, Glasgow International, British Heart Foundation, Glasgow, UK
2018 - A Weakness For Raisins, CCA, Glasgow, UK

2018 - Virginia Woolf: An Exhibition Inspired By Her Writings, Tate St. Ives, St. Ives, UK

2017

2017 - Wall-Sun-Sun, Une Une Une, Perpignan, F
2017 - A Fantasy, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK
2017 - Le Nouveau Voyeurisme, Hotel Contemporary, Milan, I

2016

2016 - The Old Things, Galerie Crevecoeur, Paris, F
2016 - Radical Vulnerability, Caustic Coastal, Manchester, UK
2016 - Sexting, Kate Werble Gallery, New York, US
2016 - Home Salon, Marcelle Joseph Projects, Ascot, UK
2016 - NEO-PAGAN BITCH-WITCH!, Evelyn Yard, London, UK
2016 - France-Lise McGurn and Matthew Musgrave, Supplement Gallery, London, UK

2015

2015 - Only With A Light Touch Will You Write Well, Freely and Fast, David Dale Gallery, Glasgow, UK

2014

2014 - The White Hotel, curated by Lucy Stein and Simon Bayliss, Gimpel Fils, London, UK
2014 - Welcome to Cor Fu, The Depot, London, UK

2013

2013 - Apartment 4, curated by Hannah Lees, Rue Jeanne d'Arc, Clermont-Ferrand, F
2013 - A Continuous Project Altered in a Day, Cor Fu, London, UK
2013 - Endogenous, Maria Stenfors Gallery, London, UK
2013 - Winter Projects, Heygate Estate, London, UK

2012

2012 - The Long Game, The Old Hairdressers, Glasgow, UK
2012 - Cultural Olympiad, Asylum at The Last Refuge, London, UK
2012 - Royal College of Art Degree Show, Royal College of Art, London, UK
2012 - K.F.S Toby Christian and France-Lise McGurn, The Lookout, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, UK

2011

2011 - The Invincible Summer Within, Jesus Pobre, Alicante, E
2011 - Royal College of Art Interim Exhibition, Royal College of Art, London, UK
2011 - Boum Euro, Cussler Gallery, Berlin, D
2011 - Living in Orange, Forgotten Bar, Berlin, D

2010

2010 - Ambrosia, II II//II Project Space, Wedding, Berlin, D

2009

2009 - Forgotten Bar, curated by Tjorg Douglas Beer, Berlin, D
2009 - Herbst, Kwadrat Gallery, Berlin, D
2009 - Purpling, Gimpels Fils Gallery, London, UK

2008

2008 - Knorke Goeren, Kwadrat Gallery, Berlin, D

2007

2007 - No Black is Not Bright White, Transmission Gallery and Box Gallery, Gothenburg, S
2007 - France-Lise McGurn, Jana Euler, Heike Kabisch, Low Salt Gallery, Glasgow, UK

2006

2006 - Great Artspectations, Graduate Exhibition, Embassy Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

Public Collections

China

K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong

Switzerland

Stiftung Kunsthaus-Sammlung Pasquart, Biel

United Kingdom

David Roberts Collection, London
New Hall Art Collection, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge
TATE, London
Zabludowicz Collection, London
National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh
Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA), Glasgow

United States of America

Dallas Museum of Art, Texas
USA Hill Art Foundation, New York
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania