

# 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); Kunsthau 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; Zabłudowicz Collection, London; Dallas Museum of Art Foundation, Texas; USA Hill Art Foundation, New York and Stiftung Kunsthau-Sammlung Pasquart, Biel.

### Solo exhibitions

#### 2026

2026 - France - Lise McGurn , DCA Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee, UK

#### 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, Kunsthhaus 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 - A Weakness For Raisins, CCA, Glasgow, UK

2018 - Foundation Painting Show, Glasgow International, British Heart Foundation, 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 - Sexting, Kate Werble Gallery, New York, US  
2016 - Radical Vulnerability, Caustic Coastal, Manchester, UK  
2016 - The Old Things, Galerie Crevecoeur, Paris, F  
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 Kunsthhaus-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

## **United States of America**

Dallas Museum of Art, Texas

USA Hill Art Foundation, New York