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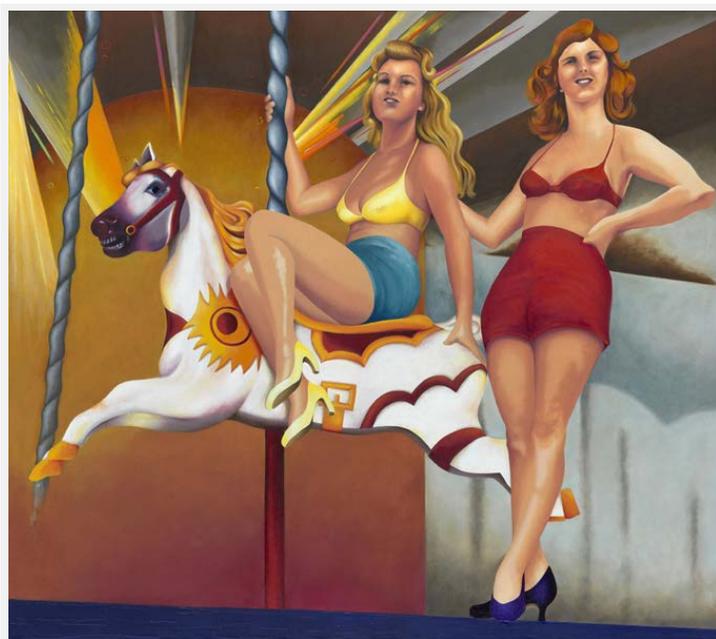
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Exhibition: Alex Roberts' Individual Liberty

Holding a brightly coloured Welcome sign, a bikini-clad giant Barbie tells visitors that they're in the right place by shocking their aesthetic palette into readiness. As 47 artworks lead the viewer around the charmingly raw gallery space, works featuring women of all shapes and sizes greet the eye.

British artist Alex Roberts' new work *Individual Liberty* is currently being held in a rather unorthodox space until Dec. 3, 2011. The exhibition space adopted by the artist was a loading bay in a former life but the building lends itself admirably to its new role. The strong exposed brick of the walls marry with the paintings' own sense of strength and independence and the wide expanse of space which becomes the gallery's main chamber is complemented by labyrinthine passageways. The large room easily showcases sizable works whilst the smaller areas allow visitors to connect with artwork more intimately, at closer quarters.



The artful Ms Roberts has declared the described *Individual Liberty* as "a celebration of the unsung beauty of fearlessness." It is difficult to fault the artist on her adherence to her mission-statement.

The women Roberts celebrates are not manufactured artists' models with toned stomachs, perfect proportions and glossy-mag faces. Roberts lauds the kind of women that popular fashion consultant Gok Wan would teach "to love the skin they're in." The playful celebration is memorable and charming.

The "fearlessly-naked-woman" is the exhibition's mainstay. Fearlessness is the currency that every single work deals in. The gallery is populated by paintings of women with relatable bodies showing off their boobs and bums whilst singing, taking a bus ride or dominating a burlesque performance.

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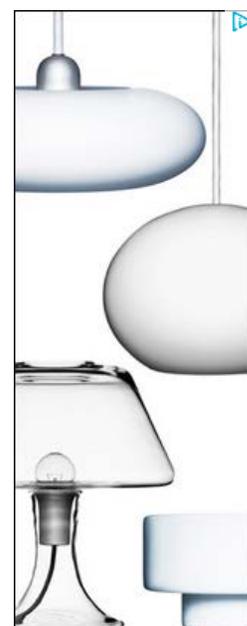
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However, Roberts doesn't only deal with nudity. *It's A Fine Line*, for instance, showcase a different type of fearlessness: the (non-)fear of falling. Even though there is a genuine relationship between fearlessness and dignified public nudity, *It's a Fine Line* reminds us that fearlessness is about transgressing boundaries. Whether the boundary is between the public domain and clothes, or between walking and terra-firma, the subject must conquer their fear before they step across that thin line.

Individual Liberty will be in residence at 7/7a, Great Guildford Business Square, London, SE1 0HS. The event is open from 10am – 6pm every day with a late night until 9pm on Fridays. For further information about the artist and the event, visit www.alexroberts.com.

Ben Goldsmith

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