

# palmer gallery

## The Door

By Miroslav Holub

Go and open the door.  
Maybe outside there's  
a tree, or a wood,  
a garden,  
or a magic city.

Go and open the door.  
Maybe a dog's rummaging.  
Maybe you'll see a face,  
or an eye,  
or the picture  
of a picture.

Go and open the door.  
If there's a fog  
it will clear.

Go and open the door.  
Even if there's only  
the darkness ticking,  
even if there's only  
the hollow wind,  
even if  
nothing  
is there,  
go and open the door.

At least  
there'll be  
a draught.

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Daria Blum

7th March - 19th April 2025

Private View | Thursday 6th March, 6-9 pm

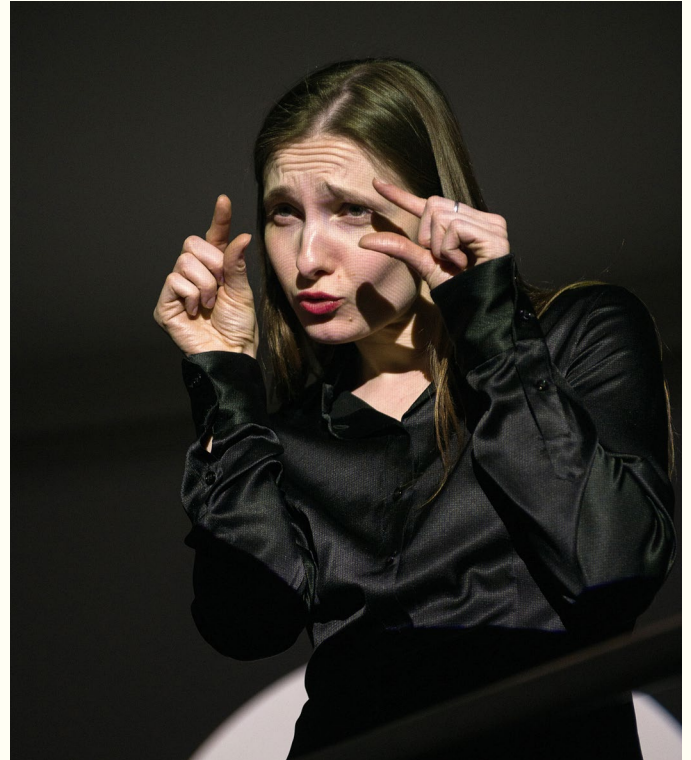
## The Door

To celebrate the first anniversary of the gallery, Palmer Gallery will be launching The Door, a new programme hosted in the annexed space at the back of the gallery. Functioning as a pseudo-project space, The Door is dedicated to supporting artists who work in less commercially-driven practices, offering them a platform to create immersive, experimental, and conceptual environments. This new initiative will feature a series of solo exhibitions running alongside the main gallery programme but with a sharper focus on experimentation, worldbuilding, and sensory engagement. The programme launches on March 6th with a solo presentation by Daria Blum.

Each presentation will showcase artists whose practices emphasize multi-sensory installations, site-specific work, and the transformation of space into immersive and thought-provoking environments. The name The Door is drawn from a poem by the Czech modernist Miroslav Holub (see above). The poem is about stimulating intellectual curiosity through endeavour, while feeling and responding to reality through an appreciation of the present. It encourages readers to embrace change and uncertainty by stepping into the unknown, suggesting that even the act of opening a door can lead to discovery, renewal, and possibility. The name also highlights the physical partition between the main gallery and The Door space, serving as a gateway into the artist's world - a portal that can be shaped and reimagined with each new presentation.



The Door entrance, Palmer Gallery



Daria Blum, performing Not Something You Say, 2023, Royal Academy of Arts, ([click for link](#))

## Daria Blum

The Door's first presentation will be by Daria Blum, a performance artist and Royal Academy Schools alumna. The work presented at Palmer Gallery is based on Blum's reflections on the role of the live performer, and her own attempts at deflecting and withdrawing from the audience's gaze and attention. Blum's presentation at The Door stages an intriguing interplay of objects, text and lighting, which makes use of reflective surfaces to implicate the viewer and explore how an installation can embody or stand in for semi-fictional personas.

The presentation forms part of a wider body of work that includes Blum's thought processes around female friendship. Within her text-based work, Blum moves through aspirations, half-truths and fiction, often using a first-person perspective to narrate semi-autobiographical relationships, encounters, and disputes between various female characters and alter egos. Parts of this written text were included in her recent installation 'Drip Drip Point Warp Spin Buckle Rot' at Claridge's ArtSpace, in which chronic cranial pain was personified as both an intrusive female presence and a compulsive liar. Blum's work at The Door delves further into themes of dishonesty, deflection, and fiction within performance, sculpture, and storytelling.

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## About the artist

Concerned with performance in its broadest sense, Daria Blum portrays a range of insubordinate female archetypes, multiplying 'her self' across video, music, text, photography, and installation to suggest how 'breaking character' can destabilize entrenched forms of engagement with the world. Conflating the stage with 'real' life, Blum mythologizes her own history as an artist, and expands everyday events into full-fledged dramas, drawing on theatre and autotheory to comment on the politics of self-objectification and contemporary modes of mediation. With an episodic approach, alter egos are killed off, resurrected or referenced through the sampling, looping, and remixing of leftover materials and digital debris.

Daria graduated from the Royal Academy Schools in 2023. She was the recipient of the inaugural Claridge's Art Prize, awarded by Marina Abramović, with her work recently featured at Claridge's Art Space. She has exhibited and performed at CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux; Ilenia, London (2024); Roskilde Festival, Denmark (2023); and at V.O Curations, Piccadilly Lights, and Kupfer in London (2022).



Daria Blum, Drip Drip Point Warp Spin Buckle Rot, 2024, Claridge's Art Space, (click for link)

## About Palmer Gallery

Founded by Lucas Giles and Will Hainsworth in 2024, Palmer Gallery is a space dedicated to identifying and developing the strongest emerging artistic talent of today. The gallery programme focuses on cross-disciplinary artists working across painting, sculpture, video, performance, light and sound installation, creating an immersive exhibition space. This multi-sensory approach embraces a holistic view of contemporary art while championing an institutional dedication to framing and contextualising complex artistic practices. Palmer Gallery's core mission is to allow artists to express themselves and thrive in an open, supportive and experimental environment; fostering a culture of creative freedom and connection among the gallery's artists and the wider community. The gallery is situated in London's Lisson Grove, in a 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> former-factory built in the 1920's by the Palmer Tyre Company, who produced parts for the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster Bombers during The Second World War.

## Contact Us

For further press information and high-res images please email: [contact@palmergallery.co.uk](mailto:contact@palmergallery.co.uk)

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## The Door Space: Previous Exhibition Examples



Field of Difference, Gusty Ferro



Matthew's Boat, Charlotte Winifred Guerard



Land, Sea, Air, Max Boyla



Ex-Voto, Shaan Bevan and Owen Pratt

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