



ART | DIARY OF A SOMEBODY

Rebecca Hossack - Day 1

In a bid to banish “white cube” exhibition spaces, the gallerist dreams up a spaceship-like pod for the roof



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REBECCA HOSSACK

I blame it on *Game of Thrones*. It's 8am and I'm still in bed.

We've been watching the box set of series three – and last night we gorged on three episodes, staying up far too late. So my plans to get up early and start the week with a run around the park have come to nothing. Instead, I was dreaming of Theon Greyjoy (or Alfie Allen, as I can't help thinking of him) getting his penis cut off.

A text-message from film producer – and neighbour – Duncan Ward announces that he will be at Honey & Co (the best café in the world) in 10 minutes. We are having a breakfast meeting to discuss plans for a film club that Duncan wants to hold in my art gallery. Happily, I live on Warren Street, only a few doors along from the café, so I am there waiting for him at 8.30am. Over ambrosial yoghurt and fruit (for me) and a sticky “Fitzrovia bun” (for him), Duncan maps out his plans to screen a series of

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“difficult, complex narrative movies that have never succeeded commercially”. Already I’m excited.

We stroll through Fitzroy Square to my main gallery – on Conway Street close to the foot of the BT Tower. There I have a meeting with Alan Chandler and his wife Alice – two inspirational architects whom I met three years ago when they found my stolen bicycle. We discuss a revamp of the gallery, as I want to try to escape from the tyranny of the “white cube” and create a more sympathetic environment for showing – and looking at – art. I also have a vision of building a round pod – like a spaceship – on the gallery roof. Alan and Alice are full of practical suggestions, encouragement and ideas.

Then it’s the Monday-morning staff meeting. The big challenge for this week is getting ourselves ready for the Lapada Art & Antiques Fair, which opens in Berkeley Square tomorrow night, as well as promoting the exhibitions in our two London galleries. We’re a small team (Georgia, Isy, Jo, Kate and Frankie) but, together with Brett, our artistically tattooed Australian technician, we’re up for the job. We do some 15 national and international art fairs a year, so we’ve had plenty of practice.

Rebecca Hossack studied at Christie’s and worked at the Guggenheim in Venice before opening her first gallery on Charlotte Street in 1988. She now has two further galleries – on London’s Conway Street and on Mott Street in New York. Born in Melbourne and serving at the Australian cultural attaché in London between 1993 and 1997, hers was the first gallery in Europe to exhibit aboriginal art. www.rebeccahossack.com. [@RebeccaHossack](https://www.instagram.com/RebeccaHossack).

See also

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