

## CELIA PAUL: DIARIES

Thursday 21 MARCH – Friday 2 MAY 2025

Frankie Rossi Art in affiliation with Hazlitt Holland Hibbert  
38 Bury Street,  
St James's  
London  
SW1Y 6BB



*Three Peonies*, 2022  
Watercolour and pastel on paper  
69.8 x 50.8 cm  
© Celia Paul  
Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro



*Delphinium, February 14th*, 2024  
Watercolour and pastel on paper  
101.6 x 66 cm  
© Celia Paul  
Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro

- 55 works on paper that capture moments of significance between 2011 and 2024 - the intimate nature of these has a diary-like quality.
- Depicting the people, landmarks and landscapes intimately connected to Celia Paul and her daily life – including a self-portrait, and a drawing of the artist's four sisters composed on the day her great friend, and artist, Frank Auerbach died.
- Exhibition coincides with the launch of a major new monograph *Celia Paul: Works 1975-2025*, published by MACK, in March 2025, spanning fifty years of the artist's paintings; and an exhibition of new paintings at Victoria Miro gallery.

*I'm not a portrait painter. If I'm anything, I have always been an autobiographer and chronicler of my life and family. I have told my life in images.*

Celia Paul<sup>1</sup>

From a young age Celia Paul has chronicled her life through her art. The people, landmarks and landscapes so intimately and deeply connected to Paul and her daily life between the years 2011 and 2024 are captured within the fifty-five exhibited works on paper. These were composed often, although not every day, in a bid to record occasions deemed worthy of recollection or when an

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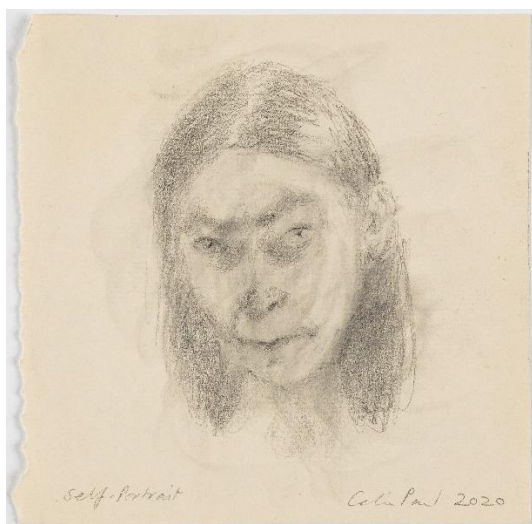
<sup>1</sup> Celia Paul, *Self-Portrait*, Jonathan Cape, London, 2019, p. 1

event readjusted the artist's perspective. As she herself noted, 'in this respect, they resemble diaries'.

Like a diary entry, many of the works are dated, with these annotations being integral to the final image. The dates give a rare clue to a moment of specific significance - the third anniversary of her husband Steven Kupfer's death; a saint's day, such as 14<sup>th</sup> February; or the artist's birthday. In other works, the dates are withheld. Within these unmarked landscapes, portraits and still lifes, the impetus remains veiled which only enriches their contemplative and intimate nature.

The final work in the show, dated 11 November 2024, gained greater significance to Paul after it was completed. A watercolour of Paul's four sisters – Mandy, Lucy, Jane and Kate – it marked the artist's birthday. That same day the artist Frank Auerbach died. A dear friend of Paul's, whom she named her son after. The watercolour subsequently took on a profound new poignancy.

The power of these works on paper is indebted to the mystery of the visual language which, in contrast to the written word, withholds explicit communication with the viewer. This enigmatic quality leaves the diary entry only partly narrated with the image acting like an echo of the moment recalled by the artist.



*Self-Portrait*, 2020  
Pencil on paper  
15.2 x 15.2 cm  
© Celia Paul  
Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro



*Cairn Ingli, Starlight*, 2020  
Watercolour, pencil, and pastel on paper  
15.2 x 15.2 cm  
© Celia Paul  
Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro

### Notes to Editors

*Celia Paul: Diaries*

21 March-2 May 2025

Monday – Friday, 10am-6pm

Saturdays, 11am-5pm

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