



Clementine McGaw
Bare Life

CLEMENTINE MCGAW – BARE LIFE

CLEMENTINE MCGAW was born in London in 1988, where she continues to live and work. She trained at Central St. Martins, graduating in 2010 with a BA in Fine Art. In 2010, she won the award for 'Best Emerging Fine Artist' as awarded by Saatchi & Saatchi.

This series of paintings explores the reality of the human body and its suffering, voicing the artist's preoccupation with the human impulse to exert our own dominance over 'life'.

McGaw's work draws on many influences – visual and otherwise. Though moved by the human suffering inherent in all conflict, McGaw is particularly inspired by the work of Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben, and his theories on what he terms 'bare life'. For Agamben, this is a form of human existence exiled from the protection of the law, where a person is forced to live as a mere body rather than as a politically entitled citizen. Each of McGaw's isolated figures are an attempt to express this state and evoke a sense of the accompanying emptiness and deprivation.

Beginning from photographs, McGaw feels that this gives her the very best opportunity to truly study the human form. Working then in oils, she uses the paint as a new language – translating the image and allowing her to record a new interpretation of her subject. In utilising the language of paint in this way, McGaw believes she can re-humanise her subjects within these new, transformed works.

Expressing the universality of suffering, McGaw's paintings almost never include the human portrait. Faceless and nameless, her figures relate to the viewer on the most intimate level.

McGaw cites a strong connection to the work of Francis Bacon, having an ongoing captivation with his efforts to paint the definitive human cry. As with Bacon, McGaw tries devotedly and painstakingly to paint the true essence of human suffering – as an emotion rather than a narrative.

Cover: Genesis 3.16 Nos. I–IV

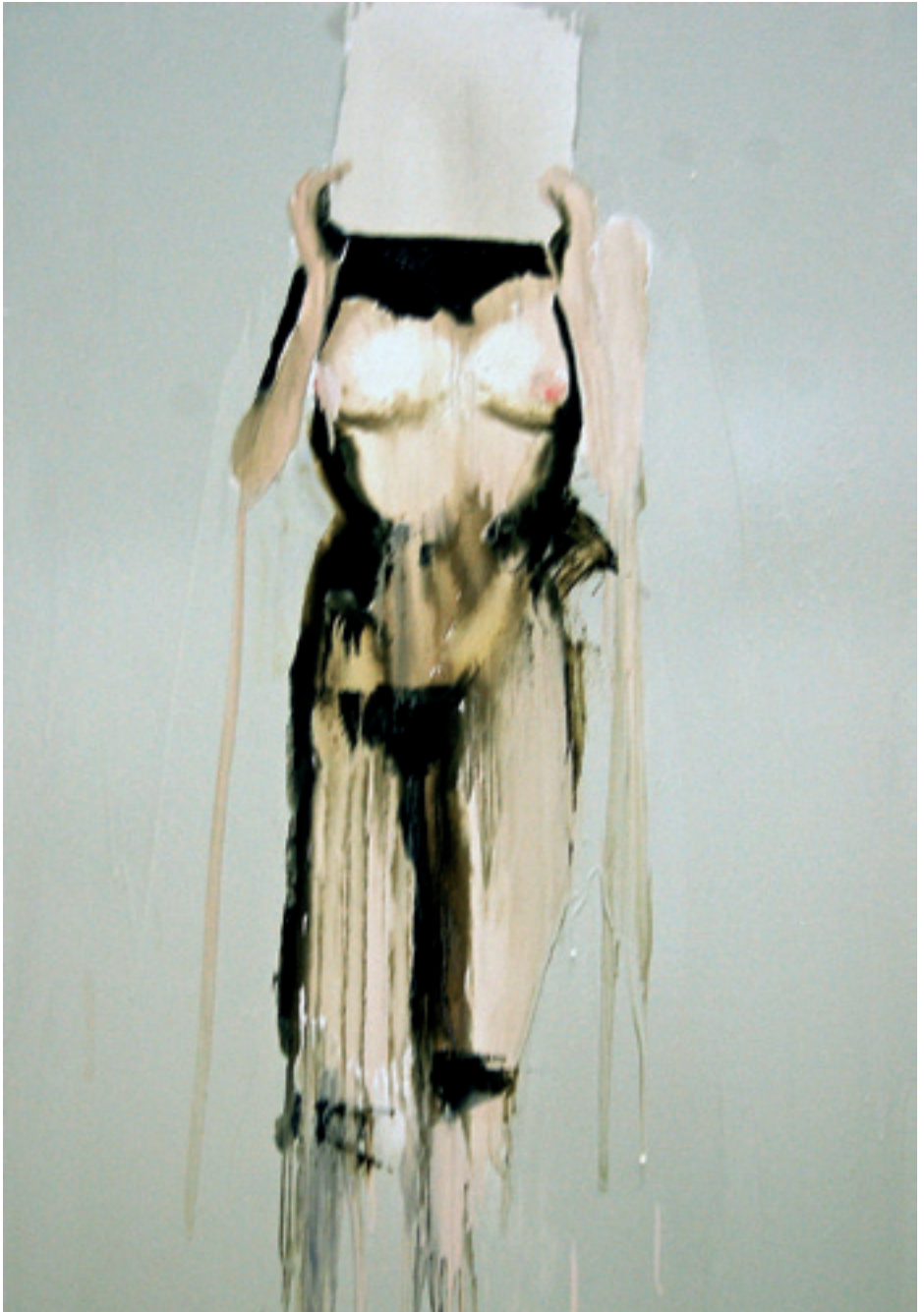
Oil on canvas, 84 x 60 cm, 2011



Female Nude I Oil and gloss on canvas, 150 x 120 cm, 2011



Female Nude II Oil and gloss on canvas, 150 x 120 cm, 2011



Female Nude III Oil and gloss on canvas, 150 x 120 cm, 2011



Female Nude IV Oil and gloss on canvas, 150 x 120 cm, 2011



Untitled I Oil and gloss on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2011



Untitled II Oil and gloss on canvas, 150 x 120 cm, 2011



Untitled III Oil and gloss on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2011



Untitled IV Oil and gloss on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2011



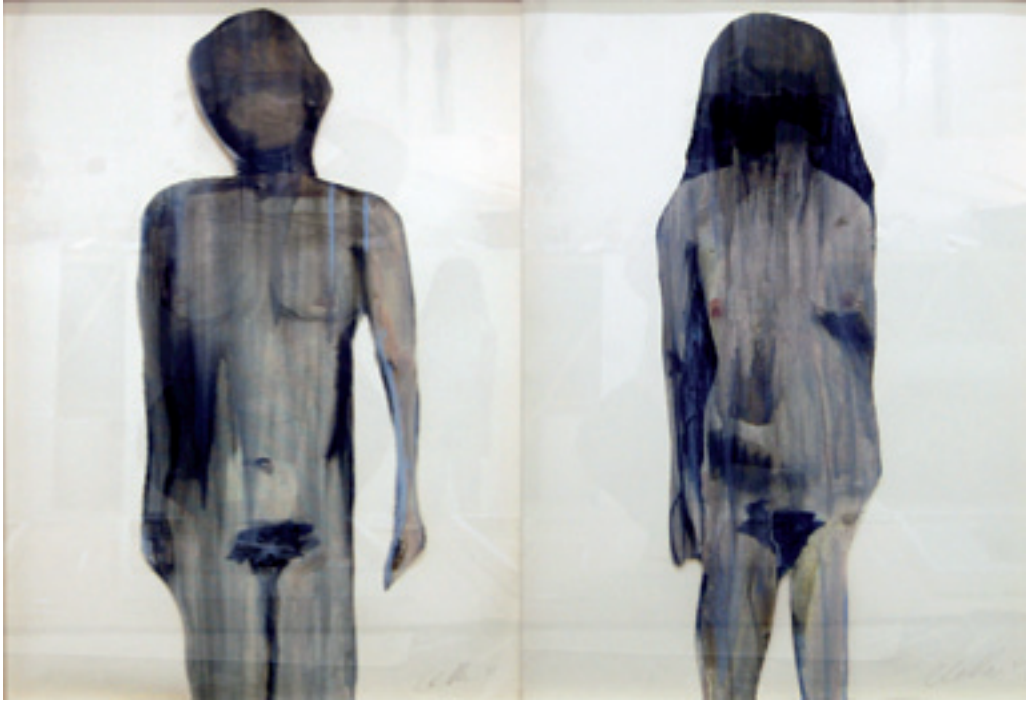
Untitled Male Nude Oil and gloss on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2011



Untitled Male Oil and gloss on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2011



Untitled V Oil and gloss on canvas, 150 x 120 cm, 2011



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