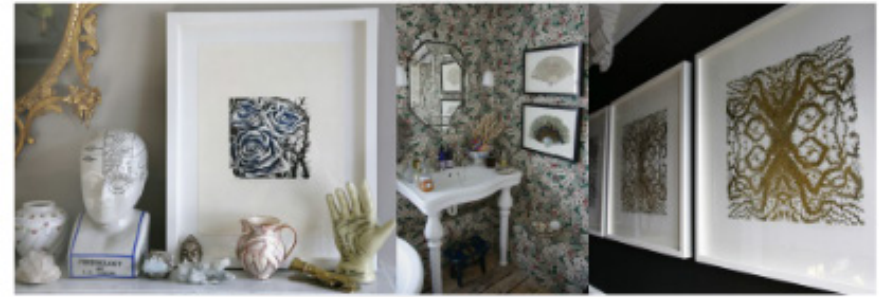




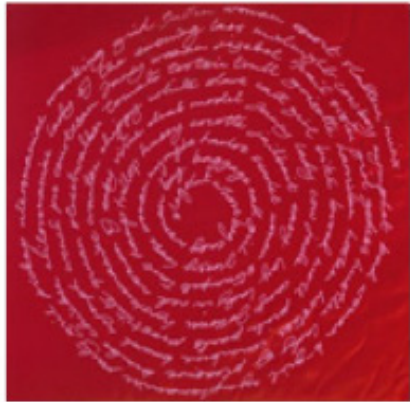
Alice's Wonderland



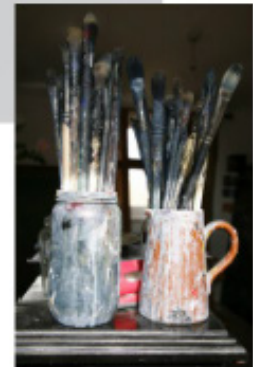
ARTIST ALICE INSTONE OPENS THE DOOR INTO HER INTRIGUING HOME AND STUDIO

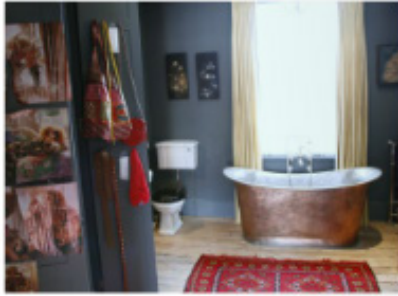
Here at EVERYTHINGinmyhouse we have been admirers of Alice Instone's work for some time. From her Interview With A Shoe exhibition (featuring the stories behind the favoured footwear of Bianca Jagger and Sir Peter Blake amongst others), to The House of Fallen Women where Alice focussed on infamously wild and brave females from history such as Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen Elizabeth the First, Madame Pompadour (but modelled by successful women of our times like Annie Lennox and Emma Freud), her work has inspired and intrigued in its' play on gender and power and in its' ability to entwine the historic with the contemporary (and always with a shock of playfulness or drama).

So it was with no shortage of over excitement that we went to meet Alice and explore her South London home and studio. Alice's most recent work is building towards a show entitled Because A Fire Was In My Head (from a poem by Yeats) at the Cob Gallery (Camden) in November and her pretty studio is currently brimming with works in progress. As with all of Alice's work we can see her fascination with history and time's familiar tales unravelling in new pieces that continue the theme of challenging how we view women. From Bronzino's Venus and Ovid's Cornix to Snow White, multiple 'found' references thread together a compelling



narrative in these her latest paintings and print pieces. A series of exquisite screen prints with glitter, depicting an elaborate tangle of thorns, create a fairytale like path down one hallway (and will feature in the November show). “These glitter pieces are the view from Sleeping Beauty’s window” Alice explains. “Thorns are a very potent motif and tap into our shared collective visual memory (a theme of my work) from fairy tales to religious imagery. Flesh pierced by thorns is a recurring image. The different colours of each print are different forests; a diamond forest, a gold forest, a silver forest, a charred black forest...”





In Alice's drawing room a huge canvas itself entitled Sleeping Beauty's Window (also destined for her show in November) follows the theme through and we are now very much in Alice's world. Empty gilded frames, Chinoiserie embroidered piano shawls, flower filled Victorian glass bell jars and phrenologist's ceramic busts sit alongside books full of inspiration (Cecil Beaton illustrations and Russian textiles are her pick for today).

Here in the drawing room and throughout the rest of the house subtle visual plays on scale create intrigue and the Alice in Wonderland references don't stop there; with flamingo and playing card wallpapers, miniature antique key collections and a white rabbit all spotted on our tour.

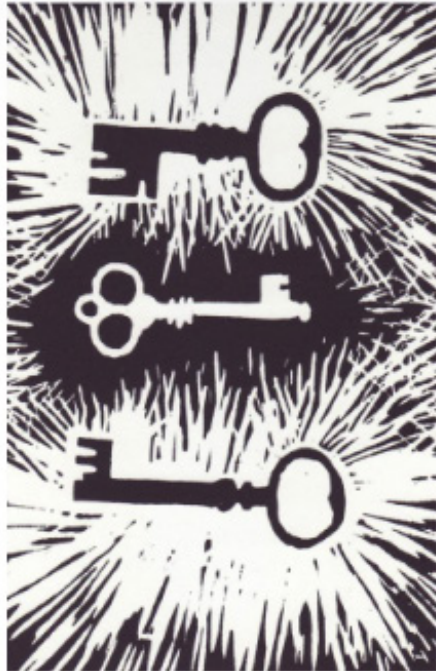
Upstairs in Alice's bedroom the artist's love of the feminine and glamorous is on full display. A passion for vintage fashion and showstopper shoes is manifested via a curated wardrobe of gorgeous frocks and high heels resplendent with mood board enhanced internal doors.



“Gypsy style, Russian textiles, dachas, folklore, ethnic rugs, kaffe fassett, velvet, butterfly wings, slubbed silk and sheepskin, leopard, old glass, ferns, foliage, antique fans, glitter, Victorian pudding illustrations, pewter...the eclectic, the beautifully crafted, the constantly evolving and improving with age (like us)...”

New works printed on silk maintain Alice's take on the way women are adorned and are often perceived. Giant dressmaker's scissors and delicate keys screened onto silk take on a symbolic quality; “Scissors manage to be both menacing and familiar, the long sharp blades are masculine and the holes for fingers feminine” says Alice. “Like scissors, keys are masculine and feminine, with their holes (often decorative) for fingers - feminine - and the barrel which is poked into a lock (!) - masculine - they are also

associated with secrets and the forbidden.” Her word spirals printed onto silk are quiet and elegant in their pattern but then shocking in content. “Slag Spirals list the numerous words for women of loose morals - pointing to the scarcity of ones for men and highlighting the differences in what is acceptable behavior for men and women,” explains Alice. “The decorative spirals draw you in so you get a little shock when you actually start reading the words.”



A selection of Alice Instone’s printed silks and woodcuts are available for sale at everythinginmystudio store pages.

For more information about the November show go to www.aliceinstone.com

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