

# Lydia Pettit

## Biography



### #LydiaPettit

Born in 1991 in Towson, Maryland.

Lives and works in London, UK.

Lydia Pettit's work explores trauma, body image and self-identity. Using herself as a model, depicted in a hyper-real manner, all the quirks and imperfections of her body showing blatantly, she questions how the female image is registered and accepted, and addresses the complex impact of the objectification of women within society.

Her materials range from large expressive oil paintings to intimate, figurative embroideries within quilts which create new realities spanning painting, textile and sculpture.

The paintings explore the experience of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the politics of the body, using self-portraiture as a vehicle to process and communicate. The body is a host to trauma and becomes a battleground in itself in the push and pull between recovery and regression, love and disgust, tenderness and callousness.

The textile pieces capture this eerie experience using disjointed compositions, mixed materials, and textures including patchwork, hand embroidery, and both flat and raised quilting. It speaks to the dark comedy of living with mental illness, the ups and the downs, and the complications of recovery.

*"My works are confrontational depictions of my own inward gaze, forcing the viewer to reckon with the realities of my body and mind, and their own viewpoints on the struggles women face with sexual abuse, trauma, body politics, and mental health."* – Lydia Pettit.

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### Education

2020 Royal College of Art, MA painting, London, UK  
2014 Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting;  
Photography Concentration

### Solo Exhibitions

2022 *Introductions* | Lydia Pettit, White Cube Gallery, London, UK  
2021 *The Well*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2018 *TENDER FLEX*, Artscape Artist Run Art Fair, Baltimore, MD  
*BIG SEXY*, School 33, Baltimore, MD  
2017 *Murmurs: New Paintings by Lydia Pettit*, Hotel Indigo, Baltimore, MD

### Group Exhibitions

2022 *GIALLO!*, Trafalgar Avenue, Margate and London, UK  
*Portraiture: An Ongoing Story*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*And This Skin of Mine, to Live Again a Second Time*, Guts Gallery, London, UK  
2021 *IRL (In Real Life)*, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London, UK  
2020 London Grads Now, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
*50/50*, Fold Gallery, London, UK  
*Royal College of Art Show*, Kristen Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, UK  
*Tomorrow: London*, White Cube, London, UK  
*Portraits & Some Standing Figures*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Signature Art Prize Gala*, Bankside Hotel, London, UK  
2019 *Bodies: Self & Sex*, No. 20 Arts, London, UK  
*Sunny Art Prize 2019*, Sunny Art Center, London, UK  
*A Raw Garden, Pinch Projects*, Fitzrovia Gallery, London, UK  
*RBA Rising Stars Exhibition*, Royal Overseas League, London, UK  
*Painters on the Other Side*, Dyson Gallery, London, UK  
*When We Once Were Someone*, Yngspc.com  
2018 *DEEP STRETCH*, Field Projects, New York, NY  
2017 *Artists on the Other Side*, Cade Gallery, Arnold, MD  
2015 *New Day Campaign: First the Pain II*, Area 405, Baltimore, MD

2014 *Under 500*, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD  
*Residency Open Studios*, Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, IE  
*Our Glass Boxes: Commencement Exhibition*, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

## Work History

Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD, Committee Member, 2015-2017  
Platform Art Center, Baltimore, MD, Building Manager, 2014-2019  
Platform Gallery, Baltimore, MD, Gallery Director, 2014-2017

## Awards, Honors and Grants

Jealous Prize, Jealous Gallery and Print Studio, London, UK, 2020  
Young Contemporary Artist Award Shortlist, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, 2020  
Signature Art Prize Finalist, London, UK, 2020  
Sunny Art Prize 2019 Shortlist, London, UK, 2019  
Neo: Artprize 2019 Shortlist, Bolton, UK 2019  
Royal Society of British Artists Rome Fellowship, Semifinalist, London, UK, 2019  
Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize Semifinalist, Baltimore, MD, 2018  
Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant for Representational Painting, Quebec, CA, 2016  
Alumni Residency Grant at Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, IE, 2015  
Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant for Representational Painting, Quebec, CA, 2014  
Painting Department Scholarship, MICA, Baltimore, MD, 2013