



## Diary

### London: Louisa Buck

## THE BUCK STOPPED HERE



Scarlett and the ever faithful Maude at the private viewing of *Scarlett Woman*

### Gender-bending muse paints town Scarlett

Once seen, never forgotten—Scarlett Cannon was one of the key faces of the 1980s when youthful London was a city sharply divided. On one side were the moneyed mobs of yuppies and Hooray Hennys, on the other, the more straitened but super-stylish creative tribes inspired by the legacy of punk to revolutionise art, fashion, music and magazine publishing. Firmly in the latter camp, Cannon was a model and muse to many, with her cropped blonde coif and strikingly unconventional looks. She was sculpted by Andrew Logan and bedecked with his shattered mirror jewellery, painted by the Polish Expressionist Feliks Topolski, captured in precise acrylics by Luciana Martinez, and photographed by Nick Knight, Judy Blame, Robyn Beeche and Mark Lebon. All these incarnations and more have been brought together in the exhibition *Scarlett Woman* at The Gallery Liverpool (until 15 September). At the opening party, Boy George, who praised the uniqueness of her 'Ming dynasty' looks. And the woman of the hour didn't disappoint, arriving for the private view in a mini dress and Minnie Mouse hairbow emblazoned with the work of her friend, the artist Donald Urquhart, who also made a matching hat for Cannon's constant canine companion Maude.



Name attraction: Bob and Roberta Smith's *Make Your Own Damn Art*

### This charming clan: 35 artists united only by their surname

What's in a name? Everything, it would seem, at London's Marlborough gallery, which used the most ubiquitous family handle in the English-speaking world as a curatorial criterion for its summer show. *The Smiths* is just that: an exhibition of 35 artists who share the same surname. But there the similarity ends. In this multimedia, multigenerational, multinational line-up, there's Kiki Smith's fantastical giant animal print influenced by Lewis Carroll, David Smith's blocky India-ink

drawing of Cape Cod made from the vantage point of Ad Reinhardt's house, and Bob and Roberta Smith's *Make your Own Damn Art* (2019) painted onto a wooden sign. In the window is a cardboard sculpture of a housing block created this year by the young self-taught Philadelphia artist Kambel Smith. As the London-based film-maker John Smith puts it: "There are known Smiths, unknown Smiths and medium-known Smiths—it's a real mixed bag and a great equaliser."

### Artists go nuts for nature as Tate declares climate emergency

London enjoyed an especially green day this July as the artist duo Ackroyd & Harvey unveiled *Beuys' Aorns* (2019)—living art in the form of 52 oak trees. Grown from acorns collected from Joseph Beuys's 1982 famous land art piece *7000 Oaks*, the 12-year-old saplings will remain outside Bloomberg's European HQ building until September. The movable glade is intended to trigger conversations on ecology, conservation and the interdependence between humans and the natural world. As the duo say: "Joseph Beuys put ecology on the same level playing field as economics". By unplanned coincidence, the Tate's declaration of a climate emergency and its promise to "interrogate our systems, our values and our programmes, and look for ways to become more adaptive and responsible" came on the same day as the launch of *Beuys' Aorns*.



Dan Harvey and Heather Ackroyd take on climate challenge with live art

### The woof stuff: barkers take charge of mutt-curated hound show

Summer heralds a more relaxed attitude to exhibition programming. Take Southwark Park Galleries, which has a show about dogs chosen by the hounds themselves. Among the canine curators supervising the cacophonous opening of *Dog Show* (until 8 September) was your correspondent's cockapoo, who seemed satisfied with two videos by William Wegman—*Dog Duet* (1975) and *The Spelling Lesson* (1977). Southwark Park director's border collie cross Ruby had chosen Martin Creed's giant photo work and video featuring the wolfhound Orson and the chihuahua Sparky. Other notable selections were Lucian Freud's portrait of his whippet chosen by dealer Karsten Schubert's border terrier Tess, and Joan Jonas's dog drawings selected by curator Joyce Cronin's whippet Agnes.



Samson, your correspondent's cockapoo, enjoys Brian Catling's 2017 sculpture *Rex*

CANNON: COURTESY OF LUCIANA MARTINEZ; ACKROYD & HARVEY: GETTY IMAGES; SMITHS: LUIGIA BUCK