

SHOWNEWS: LUELLA BARTLEY WITH WAYNE MCGREGOR, COURRÈGES WITH MARK BORTHWICK, NUDE SISTERS AND MORE

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Luella Bartley Paints Wayne McGregor



Creative polymath Luella Bartley presents *Passenger* at Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery in Berlin. Bartley's latest solo exhibition is a series of character studies. Her life drawings are more than anatomy songs. Bartley details delicate, athletic movements that came to life in rehearsal sittings led by Sir Wayne McGregor. She illustrates an elegant crescendo of modern dance as her renderings pulsate with bold physicality.

'To me, this idea of fragility and power, the effort that goes into creating something that appears so seamless seemed like a metaphor for the clash between how we deal with things internally and how we appear externally, how we can contain and experience all these different, seemingly opposite feelings in one single moment.'

- Luella Bartley

Luella Bartley's bodies appear as bulbous muscles. They leap, twist, contort and contract in an elegant look behind the grittier side of modern dance rehearsals, where tensions can be wound a bit tightly. Her watercolour and crayon canvases encapsulate a vital component of modern dance, which is the fluid unification of a group. There are no one-person shows with Company Wayne McGregor. Bartley's studies appear to have picked up this centrality to allow her figures to gesticulate or release to be carried, to give into a seamless covenant of movement. Bartley titled the exhibition 'Passenger' after a song from Iggy Pop's (himself a great dance character study) classic 1977 album. In gratitude for her empathetic ruminations on movement, Luella Bartley embodies the album's title — *Lust For Life*.

