About Kayla Howie

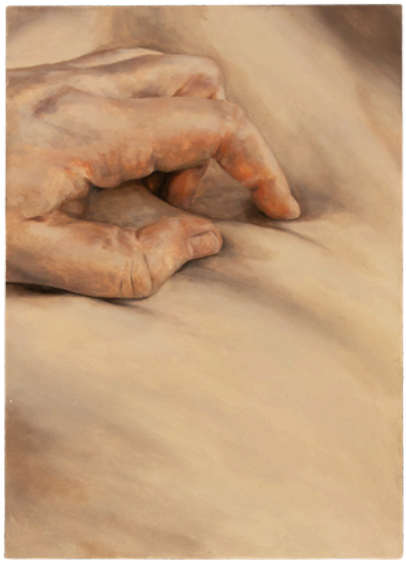
Kayla Howie (b. 2000) is a Cape Town-based artist whose practice centres on oil painting, with her own body serving as a primary point of reference.

Howie completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Cape Town in 2023. During her studies, she experimented with various painting techniques before focusing on the fragility and abjection of the body in her final year. She was named to the Dean's Merit List in both her third and fourth years and received the painting prize upon graduation. Kayla is now working towards her Master's at the Glasgow School of Art, using this time to participate in exhibitions and opportunities in Glasgow.

Her current practice explores bodily fragility through intimate depictions of skin and flesh, ranging from wounded bodies to unharmed, delicate surfaces. Drawing predominantly on portraiture, particularly self-portraiture, and images of her own body, Howie examines the vulnerability and mortality inherent to the human condition. Through these personal representations, she invites viewers to reflect on their own bodies and their relationship to mortality.

Currently in November, she is participating in a group exhibition titled Of Such A Kind. To Paint is to Attempt, at the THK Gallery.





Kayla Howie, Touch, 2024

CV

Education
2025 - present: Master of Fine Art, Glasgow School of Art
2020 - 2024: Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Cape Town

Group Exhibitions

2026
‘Of Such A Kind. To Paint is to Attempt’, THK Gallery, Cape Town
‘Maybe something small...?’, ACA (Attic for Contemporary Art), Glasgow
‘Rituals’, New Glasgow Society, Glasgow
‘Offerings’, Six Foot Gallery, Glasgow

2024
‘Memory Frame’, THK Gallery, Cape Town

2021
‘Home is Where the Art is’, Zeitz Mocaa Museum, Cape Town

Solo Exhibitions

2026
‘Fragile Skin’, Spare Room Gallery, Glasgow