



CLAIRE OWEN

ARTIST STATEMENT

These paintings are part of a series I think of as portraits. The characters are not figures known from current or historical settings, but are defined by the imagined space I place them in. The pieces are narratives, as I imagine them coming from the pages of story books. The *Falconer's Wife* gazes out of a tall building, wearing the mask of a predatory bird. The scene below is a dark forest, often referenced in fairytales. This association I am offering the viewer to make as these tales are often the first stories we encounter as children.

The Puppeteers Apprentice shows a child with several puppets in various states of completion. They are intent on the figure at their feet, incomplete yet worthy of animation as they practice their craft. We may imagine the master standing by to observe.

My work has been influenced by the illustrative style of 15th century manuscripts as well as the paintings of Frida Kahlo, Edward Hopper. The novels of Angela Carter and Alice Hoffman have also encouraged my use of existing folklore as a point of departure in developing new narratives.