

# EMMA TALBOT

b. 1969, Old Swinford, West Midlands, England  
Lives and works in London, England

'I use deliberately simple, direct language to articulate the immediate and constant nature of thoughts and memories,' says Emma Talbot. Her works, which are made directly on raw sealed canvas and cannot be erased or altered, embrace their communicative powers, often making reference to painterly and literary traditions, but also to social issues and gender politics. 'In *The Good Terrorists* [below] I illustrated a house with separate rooms to show a number of independent political acts that could be read both as individual actions or as a mass organization.' Often, her works incorporate texts from famous poets, such as Sylvia Plath or Walt Whitman, but they also relate personal experiences and ideas to become widely significant to

a contemporary audience. The paintings present themselves as windows into private worlds, in which characters (sometimes autobiographical) play out scenes of psychological significance. For Talbot, painting is a critical tool that offers the freedom to form thoughts and ideas into images. She intertwines figurative scenes, abstractions and text, and imbues each component with equal meaning and importance. Complex and layered though the paintings are, at their core they are about the translation of innermost thoughts into a vocabulary of imagery. 'I try to make apparent the complex interweave of everyday personal experiences and psychological inner worlds as honestly as possible, [like] a verbal language translated into the realm of the visual.'

*'My paintings are composites of disparate yet interconnected images and words, describing experiences, memories and ideas that make up an inner life. Different times exist simultaneously, one person can be in two places at once, and dreams and realities hold equal status.'*

Right: *The Good Terrorists*,  
2012, acrylic on canvas, 165  
× 115 × 4 cm (64 × 45 × 1½ in.)

Opposite: *Times Are  
Changing*, 2012, acrylic on  
canvas, 214 × 153 × 4 cm  
(82 × 61 × 1½ in.)



