



# PAULA REGO

The Onera series and other recent paintings

## Secrets & Stories

# The witch in all of us

Marianne Macdonald applauds the Tate's celebration of a cruel but vibrant vision

## Let me paint you a story

PAULA REGO tells a story she was raised on. A rabbit comes home from the shops to find a goat has taken over his house. The rabbit asks all the other animals to evict him, but the only one that will help is an ant – which climbs through the keyhole, burrows into the goat's belly button, and kills it.

Rego's paintings are full of such incidents of casual violence and revenge wreaked by animals/humans on one another – and full of fairy stories, too, for Rego has never lost her childhood amid the congealing certainties of adult life.

The greatness of her art, as visitors to her retrospective at the Tate will see from Saturday, is that it shows this unflinching child's gaze on the often dark complexities of human relationships: between mother and daughter, sister and brother, husband and wife. It is the more disturbing that the truths they reveal are often played out between humanoid dogs, bears and monkeys; or between humans and animals, locked in embrace.

One of her favourite pictures



Ewen

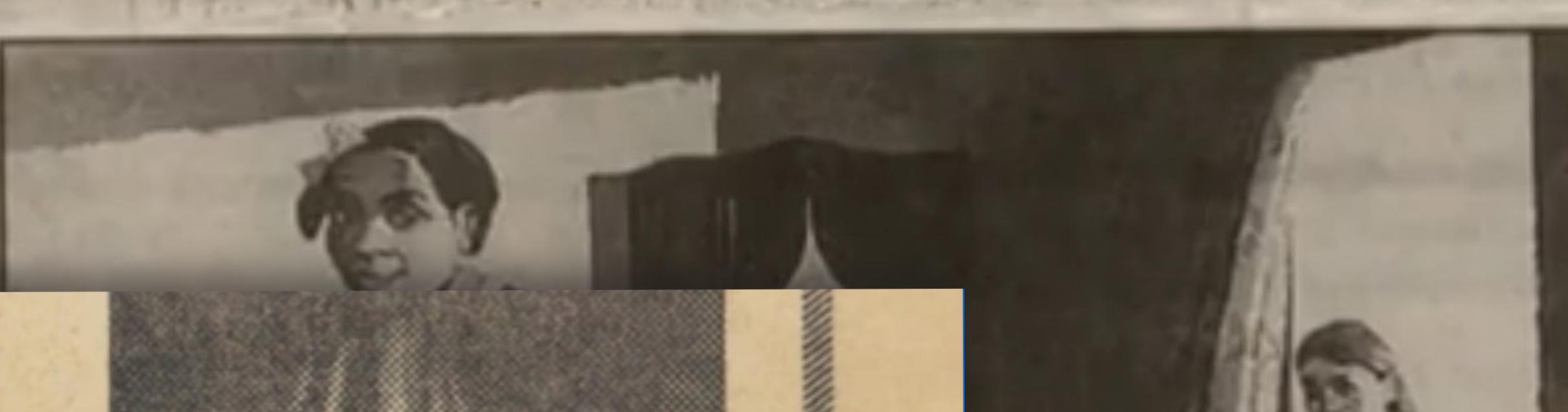
the work's about; I when they laugh," R in a recent interview.

This does not make her a feminist; she is not a political activist, nor does she Quite the opposite, in fact.

Nick Willing  
2017, UK, 90 minuten, kleur

## A fantasist with tales to tell

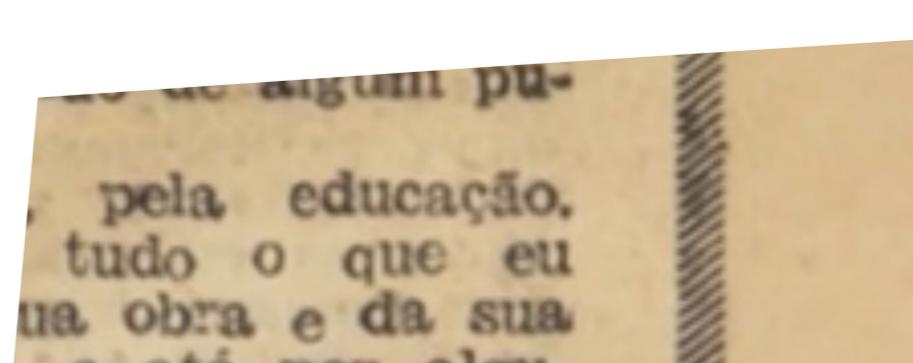
'PAULA REGO?' somebody asked. "Isn't she the one who paints big ladies? And fairy tales?" Well yes, the Portuguese artist



nas Belas-Artes

Luca School of Arts - Campus Sint-Lucas  
Alexianenplein 1, Gent Auditorium A3

6 oktober om 18:30



you've got to go by  
But inside the solitary child, paraded for visitors in her best clothes by her beautiful mother, was the little murderer of her pictures. I have known violent feelings ever since I was a child. To a child was to be so praised good. The quieter you are the more praised we all want praise for anything, like being good.  
If you don't feel good. Inside you feel bad, you want something to your toys, like a doll's fingers; I never thought that was perfectly normal."

Minima Docta