

PRESS RELEASE

Shadow-Banned in a Time of Monsters: A Solo Exhibition by Renata Fernández

Art Bypass Gallery (We Are Sweet Art), Dalston, London | 16–22 August 2025

Opening Event: Saturday, 16 August 2025 | All-day fundraiser for *Doctors Worldwide* supporting their Gaza relief efforts

Venezuelan-born artist **Renata Fernández** presents *Shadow-Banned in a Time of Monsters*, a poignant solo exhibition exploring themes of censorship, resistance, and resilience in the face of genocide. Hosted by **Art Bypass Gallery**—an artist-run feminist initiative amplifying marginalised voices—the show challenges conventional art norms while raising urgent humanitarian awareness.

The Exhibition

The title draws from Antonio Gramsci's famous phrase, "*Now is the time of monsters*," reflecting societal upheaval where old orders crumble and unsettling new forces emerge. For Fernández, this "time of monsters" mirrors the digital and physical repression faced by those bearing witness to Gaza's devastation.

The exhibition features two central works:

1. **"My Social Media Feed in Ink"** (2021–ongoing): Over 200 small ink drawings appropriating images from social media, started during the pandemic's isolation and escalating into a harrowing archive of Gaza's genocide. Recognisable to many, these images confront the algorithmic suppression of shared outrage.
2. **"Artist-Made Shelter for a Man-Made Tragedy Such as Genocide"**: A large diptych painting doubling as a shelter's wall within the gallery. Filled with salvaged comforts—family photos, makeshift "windows," a lamp—it asks: *Can art offer respite amid relentless violence?* The work echoes Palestinian resilience, where beauty persists even in ruins.

Art as Witness, Shelter, and Defiance

Fernández's practice interrogates art's role in times of crisis. The shelter installation, though "useless" in practical terms, embodies the *I Ching's* Hexagram 22 (*Adornment*): a tribute to dignity upheld

through creativity. Meanwhile, her ink drawings archive collective grief—and the shadow-banning of dissent.

Event Details

- **Exhibition Dates:** 16–22 August 2025
- **Location:** Art Bypass Gallery (We Are Sweet Art Co.), Dalston, London E8
- **Contact:** info@wearesweetart.com

Art Bypass Gallery operates on feminist principles, centring marginalised voices and redefining who creates—and accesses—art.

High-res images & interviews available on request.