

WALDEMAR JANUSZCZAK ON ART

It's the year of the horse — and here's why we should thank George Stubbs

Whistlejacket is a beloved fixture at the National Gallery. Now it has a new stable companion — the mighty stallion, Scrub



Ishbel Myerscough's Soap 1, 2025

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND LYNDSEY INGRAM

Waldemar Januszczak, Chief Art Critic

Saturday March 14 2026, 5.00pm, The Sunday Times

Reality as something charged and exciting is what Ishbel Myerscough also keeps noticing in a fine showing at the Lyndsey Ingram gallery. Entitled, cheekily, **Stay at Home, Save Lives**, it features paintings and drawings made during the Covid lockdown when she and her family were cooped up at home with only themselves and their situation for subjects. The result is a mix of interiors, still lifes and figure studies that sizzle with claustrophobic edginess.

Myerscough can be thumbnailed as a female Lucian Freud. She favours domestic moods with painterly unease running through them. Like Freud, she looks her way to drama. Stretching out her son on the kitchen table in his underpants, she paints him in a strict and shallow profile immediately reminiscent of Holbein's great dead Christ in Basel. On a smaller scale, she does the same to her daughter.



Living Room, 1st Floor 2, 2020

But this trademark sense of the ordinary raised to the extraordinary works most unexpectedly in a set of anxious still lifes: a bar of soap, a hairbrush, some packets of paracetamol. They are the stuff of every day, but in this show, by this artist, they are raised to the status of prickly relics.

Stubbs: Portrait of a Horse is at the National Gallery, London, to May 31; ***Stay at Home, Save Lives*** is at Lyndsey Ingram, London, to Apr 10

What exhibitions are you going to see this month? Let us know in the comments below