

# FEAST OF DARK MARVELS



Rahne Dreams of Saving the World (2006) and Blood Sisters (2016), below, feature in Blood Moon by Jazmina Cininas.

## BLOOD MOON

Jazmina Cininas

Top Gallery

Salamanca Arts Centre

77 Salamanca Place

Until Wednesday, May 31

Price range: \$500 to \$2200 for limited-edition prints

Jazmina Cininas's sometimes gruesome art about female werewolves sounds very niche, but it deserves to be seen by the broadest possible audience.

The printmaker's skillfully executed linocuts show meticulous attention to detail. Her precise and beautifully constructed work reminds me of the best of conceptual artists Gilbert & George: everything is rich and constructed with amazing care. Linocut work is rarely as detailed or layered as this.

Throughout the series, Cininas hints at her source material, be that B-grade horror films, medieval illuminated texts, or slightly creepy illustrations from old children's books.

The control she shows is impressive, and so is her dedication: some of the larger works in this show took 600 hours to complete. The effort was worth it, though: these powerful images will haunt anyone who truly sees what they represent.

Also fascinating is the research that has gone into making it. Cininas has found, in disparate sources, a rich lineage of female werewolves and she shares what she's discovered in stories that accompany each of her image.

The narrative that emerges is a secret and deeply subversive history: here are wild and hairy women, dangerous outsiders,

witches and even monsters, who express an untamed resistance to a patriarchal world.

There are characters from superhero comics, anime and horror films as well as historical figures, which makes for a powerful mixture of images and narratives.

Cininas has done a lot in this show, but her most remarkable achievement is the manner in which she has raised to prominence a fascinating archetype.

The line she traces across many cultures and mediums, right up to the present day, is revelatory and surprising.

*Blood Moon* is deeply feminist in its celebration of wild, savage women.

It is a feast of dark marvels for both the eye and the mind, and a testament to rigorous research.

This is an exceptional show.

For more details, visit [jazminacininas.com](http://jazminacininas.com)

