

bo.lee gallery

Tomas Harker

A Sea in Suspense

Opening 25 April 2019, 6-8pm
26 April - 25 May 2019

A Sea in Suspense brings together a new body of work by Ingram Collection Purchase Prize awardee Tomas Harker.

Like the tides, the ubiquitous jpeg image ceaselessly impresses upon us before receding into an expanse. Tomas Harker suspends such fleeting images in paint, a medium at odds with our perpetual visual consumption. Sifting through online images as anthropological fragments of our culture, he selects diverse source material to paint. High, low, iconic and banal are treated with equal importance, their hierarchies deconstructed in the process. A non-linear narrative of allegorical and aesthetic associations is created throughout, one that resists didactic interpretation.

Within his practice, the gesture of painting has a function akin to self-analysis. Insights are unveiled and decoded both over the course of creation and during subsequent encounters with the viewer.

The brevity of Harker's brushstrokes suggest a sense of agency, responding to our consumption and the pace of visual saturation. His economy of brushstroke, characteristically chalky palette and exposure of canvas convey the artist's internalisation and transformation of found image material.

This series of paintings puts forward an inherently self-reflexive perspective on the place of art in the midst of daily image consumption. From source to finish and from the specificity of one discipline, the work exhibited here offers a response to the 'sea' of excess which characterises modern visual culture. Through an exploration of the qualities and history of his medium, Harker questions if adding to its legacy is a wish to reappropriate its symbolic power.

Tomas Harker (b. 1990, Worksop, Nottinghamshire) lives and works in London. Solo exhibitions include The LightBox, Woking 2019 (forthcoming), MAZE Gallery, London 2018, Gosh Gallery, Newark 2015. Selected group exhibitions include *There's Something About PAINTING*, Tatjana Pieters, Gent 2019 (forthcoming), Delphian Gallery, London 2019, *Ingram Collection Finalists exhibition*, Cello Factory, London 2018, *CITE*, bo.lee gallery, London 2018, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh 2017 and Yorkshire Artspace, Sheffield 2016.

For further information and image requests please contact our Press Officer Bethany Parkinson press@bo-lee.co.uk

