

JACK OTWAY

(1991 Winchester, UK)

He lives and works in London.

Graduated in Fine Arts from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom and Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Art, Krakow, PL.

His recent monochrome paintings display distortions in tonality and optical depth. Otway's 'Smooth Spaces' series explores small destructive gestures as creative acts and foregrounds an economy of subtraction and interference over methodologies of addition. What is emptied out and what we are left with are two key questions here. Immediacy is replaced by mediation and we are left with indirect painterly effects. Initial applications of paint and marks made are treated unsentimentally and as values that are not fixed. Simple repeating patterns are smoothed over, dragged across and pulled back again from all angles. Otway is interested in the processes and gestural transformations in painting (or of information/ image making) after the fact. He finds a productive space in the ability to go backwards, similar to digital editing techniques. It is the bare bones, the constituents of painting that Otway is dealing with: viscosity, absorbency, friction, drying time, and tonality. Otway explores how focusing on these fundamentals and their manipulation can incidentally create surprising material effects and distortions. Conceptually, the obfuscation of what is initially laid down becomes an act to open the surface up to new compositions and effects. It permits qualitative change and generates textural affects: a sense of motion or touch. Graphite paint across low friction, low absorbent gesso surfaces takes on the appearance of a mushroom cloud, white noise or the aluminium powder in an Etch a Sketch.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 Leonard, Peter von Kant, London, UK

2018 Corn Starch Inside a Leather Pouch Makes The Sound Of Snow Crunching, Assembly House, Leeds, UK

2017 Check in. Relax. Take a Shower, Peter von Kant, London, UK

2017 Peddling Sinister Runic Humbug, Griffin Gallery Perimeter Space, London, UK

2016 Manchester Contemporary w/ Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun, Manchester, UK

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GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020 Let Me Show You A Story, Curated by Domenico de Chirico, Lis10, Milan, IT

2019 03, PM/AM, 44a Charlotte Rd, London, UK

2019 Jack Otway, Daniel Davies and Ina Gerken, Zona Mista Project Space, London, UK

2018 The Wood, The Warren Pitch Fitzrovia, London, UK

2018 Nail Biter, The Rectory Projects, London, UK

2017 In Residence, Griffin Gallery, London, UK

2017 Ultra Sunrise, Set Studios, Bermondsey, London, UK (curated by It's Kind of Hard to Explain x Milk)

2017 Instant Karma, Achenbach Hagemeyer, Düsseldorf, DE

2017 The Habit of Hiding Behind Things, A.P.T Gallery, Deptford, UK

2016 A Threshold, A.P.T Gallery, Deptford, UK (curated by Jack Otway, Chris Alton, Finlay Forbes Gower and Svenja Buehl)

2016 Skin Deep, Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun, Leeds, UK (curated by SEIZE)

2016 EBC001, East Bristol Contemporary, Bristol, UK

2016 London Art Fair w/ XL Catlin Art Guide, London, UK

2015 Griffin Art Prize Shortlist Exhibition, Griffin Gallery, London, UK

2015 Griffin Gallery Open, London, UK

2015 FUAM Art Prize Exhibition, Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, Leeds, UK

2015 SHIFT, University of Leeds Degree Show, UK

2014 Dzikosc Serca (Wild at Heart), Browar Lubicz and Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Art, Krakow, Poland

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AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

2016 Project Based Residency, Griffin Gallery, UK

2016 Dentons Art Prize, London, UK, shortlisted

2016 – 2017 A.P.T Graduate Studio Award, Deptford, UK

2015 – 2016 Harbour Studio Residency, Floating Island Gallery, London, UK

2015 – 2016 Into the Wild, Professional Development Program, Chisenhale Studios, London, UK

2015 Griffin Art Prize, Griffin Gallery, London, UK, shortlisted

2015 Liquitex Painting Prize, Griffin Gallery, London, UK, highly commended

2015 The Alan Mohun Memorial Prize, University of Leeds, UK

2015 FUAM Art Prize, University of Leeds, UK

PUBLICATIONS

2016 XL Catlin Art Guide

2016 Looking at Painting Volume II

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Untitled (Smooth Spaces 001)

2020

graphite, acrylic and dispersion on plaster on panel

cm 30x40

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Untitled (Smooth Spaces 002)

2020

graphite, acrylic and dispersion on plaster on panel

cm 40x50



Untitled (Smooth Spaces 003)

2020

graphite, acrylic and dispersion on plaster on panel

cm 40x50