

DARREN ALMOND

In Temple Grounds

November 16th, 2019 - January 4th, 2020

Alfonso Artiaco gallery is pleased to announce the opening of Darren Almond's solo show, on Saturday, November 16th 2019, at 11.30 a.m., the artist will be present.

For his fifth exhibition (2005, 2007, 2010 and 2014) at the Alfonso Artiaco gallery, the British artist Darren Almond will present 'In Temple Grounds' an exhibition of new paintings and sculptures. These new works continue Almond's preoccupation with a scaling of the infinite within the individual mind.

The new multi-panelled works titled 'Counter Paintings' are informed by geometry and mathematics, landscapes and constellations. Arranged in a grid format, these polychrome panelled paintings present fragments of numbers which pattern rhythmically across the paintings' surfaces seemingly caught in a permanent state of becoming. The grid structure provides the invariant against which other elements appear to be in the process of transformation, both fragments of numbers, and colours seem to wax and wane, appearing in varying degrees of wholeness. Almond's compositional lexicon employs its structure from the way 'Seishi', vertical wooden posts, are used in Japanese Gardens. These 'Seishi' support the long limbs of ancient pine trees, enabling them to occupy regions and spaces otherwise beyond their reach.

Operating at the intersection between figuration and abstraction, the painting's compositions echo not only the arrangement of forms, but also the negative spaces and passages experienced in Japanese temple gardens. Almond creates layered paintings, which possess highly sensitive and reflective surfaces. These layers are made up from drawing, painting and the application of metals such as copper, silver and gold, materials, which are conductors and transformers of energy. As such these paintings alter their aspect at different times of day and over longer periods of time. At an instant their surfaces might transform from something bright, gleaming and impenetrable to a darker, glowing, almost watery surface. These paintings constantly react and respond to their environment and ever changing light conditions, paths of

natural light are redirected at an instant thereby situating the viewer unequivocally within a present tense.

A counterpoint to the panelled paintings are the quietly paradoxical 'Divided Icon' paintings. These enigmatic works present an image of a zero divided between two panels. For some the zero may express the essential unbroken condition of All and yet, here, it is waiting perhaps, for a viewer who might reconstitute it through their finite mind as a luminous meditative portal towards the infinite.

'In Temple Grounds' exhibition focuses on the evolution, to present time, of Darren Almond's constant research on the idea of time, of its passing, on the perception that the single human has of it and, on the other hand, the perception that the collective memory have.

Darren Almond was born in 1971 in Wigan, UK. The artist works with a variety of media including photography, sculpture and video. He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2005 and has had numerous solo exhibitions worldwide: The Renaissance Society, Chicago (1999); De Appel, Amsterdam and the Kunsthalle Zürich, Zurich (2001), Tate Britain, London (2001); Nicola Trussardi Foundation/Palazzo della Ragione, Milan, Italy (2003); K21, Düsseldorf (2005); Museum Folkwang, Essen (2006); SITE Santa Fe (2007); Parasol Unit, London (2008); Villa Merkel, Esslingen and FRAC Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-les-Rouen (2011); the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, Chaumont-sur-Loire (2012); Kunsthau Graz, Graz (2015), SCAI the Bathhouse, Tokyo (2016). Main collective exhibitions include the Berlin Biennale (2001), the Venice Biennale (2003), the Busan Biennale (2004), the exhibition associated to the Turner Prize, Tate Britain, London (2005), Moscow Biennale (2007) and the Tate Triennial, Tate Britain, London (2009). Among his many works, The Nothing That Is, Royal Academy of Arts, London; Photographing Monet's Gardens: Five Contemporary Views, Musée des Impressionismes, Giverny (2015); Fire under the Snow, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk and Sublime, les tremblements du monde, Centre Pompidou, Metz (2016); In My Shoes: Art and the Self since the 1990s, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield and The MOON: From Inner Worlds to Outer Space, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek (2018); Apollo's Muse: The Moon in the Age of Photography, The Metropolitan Museum, New York (2019).