

Ryan Mosley

A planets revolution

October 24 - November 30, 2019
Galerie EIGEN + ART Berlin



Ryan Mosley, *A planets revolution*, 2019, Oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm

romp of his heightened colours into exaggeratedly desperate throws of optimism.

In the painting *Songs for the sea* a violinist fiddles in a drifting boat, scrutinised by men in another craft, which appears to have eased alongside. Another man, preoccupied by the skull that he is gripping, drifts, oars abandoned, across uncharted waters in the work *Lonely was a mountain*. *A planets revolution* shows a sombre man walking his dog, troublingly self-absorbed, watched over by a predatory cat. Individual human faces, realistically rendered in their anguish, as never quite before, replace the romping grotesquerie of the past. The symbolic presence of water menaces threatens to engulf. In two of the largest paintings in this show, humanity is afloat upon it, helplessly, every man an Odysseus seeking out a homeland. The water itself looks almost sculpted, its curves gouged. And is there not more than a recognition of the passing fragility of the world in the way that he has painted the camel with such tenderness in *Under a strange canopy*?

In *Let in life* he paints a gaunt-faced, sombre woman in profile - there is more than a hint of the lonely pessimism of Munch about her - smoking a long-stemmed pipe. The pipe smoke creates a sharp, eerie triangle of sick green, which outlines the shape of her head. 'My grandmother used to say,' Ryan remarks, 'that if you see a woman smoking a cigar, it means she is tough.' The toughness needed for survival perhaps.

Ryan Mosley's paintings have always been precarious, knife-edged, intuitive things, characterised by their exuberance, headlong free-wheelingness, sucking in motifs from the drifting, ever shape-shifting worlds of circus and carnival, the brawling anarchy of Dada. Rooted in figurative impulses, they revel in the bizarre, the improbable, the unpredictable and the grotesque. They are self-delighting, self-enclosed worlds of abandonment, staged performances, theatrical presentations which we willingly spectate. And behind them we have always felt the shadowy presence of all those artists who have helped to shape them, from Daumier to Kitaj, Hogarth to Degas, Manet to Picasso, Léger to Darger.

Until now. His fourth solo show at Galerie EIGEN + ART marks a shift of tone and feeling. Its title, *A planets revolution*, nods in the direction of our political uncertainties as never before. A mood of perplexity seems to transform the

Galerie EIGEN + ART
Gerd Harry Lybke

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Text by Michael Glover

Biography

born 1980 in Chesterfield, UK
lives and works in London, UK

Education

2005 - 2007 Master of Arts, Painting, Royal College of Art, London, UK
2000 - 2003 Bachelor of Arts, Drawing and Painting, Huddersfield University, UK

Awards / Scholarships

2010 Grand Arts Residency, Kansas, USA
2007 Basil H Alkazzi Award
2005 Visual Arts Travel Scholarship, Royal-Over-Seas-League, Australia

Solo exhibitions (selection)

2019 A planets revolution, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Berlin, Germany
Rival Poets, Galerie Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen, Denmark
2018 Under Moon, Tim van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
2017 From the Verges, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Leipzig, Germany
2016 Anatomy and the Wall, Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK
Coupe de grâce, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
2015 The Mirror Never Reflects, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Berlin, Germany
2014 Band of None, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Los Angeles, USA
2013 Thoughts of Man, Tierney Gardarin Gallery, New York, USA
2012 Reversed Limbo, EIGEN + ART Lab, Berlin, Germany
2011 Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK
2010 Painting Séance, Grand Arts, Kansas City, USA
Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK
2009 A Gathering, Regina Gallery, Moscow, Russia
Project Room, Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK
2008 Census, Engholm Engelhorn, Vienna, Austria
Art Basel Miami Beach, Engholm Engelhorn, Miami, USA
2004 Eight Years Ago and Before, Bloc Space, Sheffield, UK

Group exhibitions (selection)

2020 Radical figures, painting in the new millenium, White-chapel Gallery, London, UK
2019 GMA XXX AAR, Galerie Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Drawing Biennial 2019, London, UK
The Last Waltz (For Leon), Tim van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
Fatherhood, Over the Influence, Los Angeles
2018 Head Roll, Graves Gallery, Sheffield, UK
The Wall Have Ears, Aston Hall Museum, Birmingham, UK
Malevolent Eldritch Shrieking, Paul Morrison's Studio, Sheffield, UK
Apartment of Mr. Reverend, Regina Gallery, Moscow, Russia
Always Trust The Artist, Tim van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
2017 JUMP BALL, Dio Horia, Mykonos, Greece
A New kitchen Sink, Josh Lilly Gallery, London, UK
Everything Flows, Millennium Gallery, Sheffield, UK
INTER YOUTH, Museum of China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China
2016 PAINTERS' PAINTER, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
BÜHNENREIF / 1. AKT (1900 - 2016), Arp Museum Bahnhof Rolandseck, Remagen, Germany
Rohkunstbau XXII - Zwischen den Welten, Kulturschloss Roskow, Roskow, Germany
Four calling birds, Satellite Berlin, Germany
Imagine, Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy
2015 offen, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Berlin, Germany
The Islanders, Galerie Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Accrochage, Galerie EIGEN + ART, Leipzig, Germany
One Day, Somthing Happens: Paintings of People, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, UK; Hayward Touring & Arts Council exhibition, UK