

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOBY ZIEGLER: PRONK



25 MARCH – 14 MAY 2022

PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY 24 MARCH, 6–8 PM

SIMON LEE GALLERY, HONG KONG

Simon Lee Gallery, Hong Kong is pleased to present an exhibition of new paintings by Toby Ziegler, in which the artist continues his analysis of the compression of time into painting and the speed of making and unmaking an image.

For this exhibition, Ziegler brings together eight new paintings that find their origin in the 17th century still life tradition, from the works of Flemish master Jan Brueghel the Elder and the German artist Abraham Mignon. Ziegler's attraction to the vanitas theme lies in its power to express a moment frozen in time while nonetheless emphasising its fragility, thereby articulating a sense of duration.

Ziegler's still life paintings are at first glance recognisable as the historical paintings they reference, however on closer inspection, areas of the substrate – aluminium or pink gesso – interrupt the picture plane. Using an orbital sander to efface the surface of the panel, Ziegler directly contrasts the time-consuming process of figurative painting with the rapidity of erasure. Yet these works give themselves to the viewer very slowly, compressing time, from the facture of the source painting and its ensuing life span to Ziegler's own reincarnation of the image.

In these new paintings, the artist walks the line between representation and abstraction, collapsing narrative and pictorial space and dismantling chronological time.

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NOTES TO EDITORS**About Toby Ziegler**

Toby Ziegler was born in 1972 and lives and works in London, UK. His work has been shown extensively internationally and has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, including Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK (2020); The Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania, Australia (2018); Simon Lee Gallery, Hong Kong (2018); New Art Centre, Roche Court, Salisbury, UK (2017); The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK (2014); Old Burlington Car Park, London, UK (2012); Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK which travelled to Sarisalvo, Finland, New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK and Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland (2011-2012). Major institutional group shows include the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen, France (2019); me Collectors Room Berlin, Olbricht Foundation, Berlin, Germany (2016); Tokyo Station Gallery, Tokyo, Japan which travelled to Itami City Museum of Art, Itami, Japan; Kochi Museum of Art, Kochi, Japan and Okayama Museum of Art, Okayama, Japan (2015); Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania, Australia (2013); Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2010); The State Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia (2009-2010); Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden (2008); Tate Britain, London, UK (2007). His work is part of major private and public collections including The Arts Council of England; The British Council; Tate Britain; François Pinault Foundation; Zabłudowicz Collection and Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania.

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Toby Ziegler, *Feast of Fools*, 2021. Oil on aluminium, 93 x 80 x 2 cm (36 5/8 x 31 1/2 x 3/4 in.) Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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