

George Bolster

## 200 Billion Suns

02.03.–20.04.2024

Opening: 01.03.2024, 6–9 p.m.

As a species, we are living through successive revolutions, initially through the internet, and now the rise of AI, simultaneously, with the James Webb Telescope the physics of the cosmos has to be completely reevaluated. We now know that the Big Bang was not the first, and that seven hundred and seventeen galaxies are now newly observable. Bolster's wonder at these successive life altering sets of circumstances gives full rein to his singular speculative fictitious versions of geographical depictions of exoplanets. Each work encompasses numerous processes both analogue such as painting, embroidery, and debroidery; and digital through different image augmentation and digital drawing processes.

Unlike all of Bolster's body of work in the last eight years, for 200 Billion Suns the artist hasn't actively engaged with scientists, and consequently, it is the most visually poetic. It is quotational of research Bolster is conducting on a range of issues affecting our existence: climate change as our largest challenge, systems for making us a sustainable species, and our culpability in animal, plant and insect extinctions. The works are the beginning of a series the artist refers to as Intergalactic Romanticism, and each take cues from the works of Casper David Friedrich, and the philosophical writings underpinning German Romanticism. His works detach from a present, and imagine several future possibilities, aimed at one outcome, wonder.

### Biography

Multidisciplinary artist George Bolster grew up in Ireland, and works between West-Cork and NYC. He has exhibited internationally at numerous institutions including: Ulterior Gallery, NYC, USA; the RHA, Dublin, Ireland; MMCA, Seoul, Korea; New Museum Los Gatos, California, USA; Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Meath, Ireland; Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France; Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates; and MASS MoCA, Massachusetts, USA. The artist's monograph *When Will We Recognise Us* has just been published by Hirmer Verlag featuring contributions from Seán Kissane, Denise Markonish, Leanne Sacramone,

Ian Alden Russell, Sarah Kelleher and Clair Walsh. The artist is the recipient of numerous prestigious residencies including: Bundanon Residency, Bundanon Art Museum, Bundanon, Australia (2024); Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France (2019); Elizabeth Foundation for The Arts, New York, USA (2017); SETI Institute, Mountain View, California (2016-17); the Robert Rauschenberg Residency, Captiva, Florida, USA (2013); and The Firestation Residency, Dublin, Ireland (2012). Bolster's work will feature as part of the Bangkok Art Biennale this Autumn.