

Jules de Balincourt *Itinerant Ones*

16 November - 20 December 2013

Victoria Miro, 16 Wharf Road, London N1 7RW



Jules de Balincourt, *High and Low*, 2013

Victoria Miro is delighted to present Jules de Balincourt's *Itinerant Ones*, the first solo exhibition in the UK for the Paris-born, New York- based painter.

Known for his carefully constructed paintings that move effortlessly between abstraction and figuration, the imagined and the real, this new body of work sees De Balincourt moving away from direct references to current social, political or popular culture, and instead depicting a world in which indications of specific place or time are absent. Although the works are diverse in subject matter, throughout the exhibition a poetics of free-association lends the images a certain universal familiarity.

De Balincourt's process involves various techniques - including stencilling, masking, abrading and watercolour-like oil washes - creating an apparently seamless vision. Exhibited across two floors of the gallery, the paintings here range in scale from the tablet-sized *Boardwalk Barter* a reminiscence from the artist's earlier years selling his work in Venice, California, to one of his signature, immersive flower-like explosions, which can be read as either the conceptual origin or the end point of all other work.

In works such as the cityscape *High and Low*, the acid-bright leisure scene *BBQ sur l'herbe*, and the painting from which the show takes its title, *Itinerant Ones*, De Balincourt zooms out of specific culture into a more global gaze. Juxtapositions of works such as *Firepeople* and *Visionquest*, where figures come together in hopes of spiritual enlightenment, with *Alex*, an intimate portrayal of a friend on the beach, locate De Balincourt's interest in both personal and social depictions of humanity.

This body of work takes the viewer on a journey - an escape - into a realm populated by small communities gathering, converging, or seeking solace or refuge. They may appear cradled by a strange nature, or searching for protection from an ambiguous threat. De Balincourt's scenes come to signify a desire for leisure or reprieve from within a vulnerable and ever-changing landscape, whether physical or psychological. He paints a restless world both in form and content, perhaps suggesting that we are instead the itinerant ones of the show's title.

New Rizzoli Monograph

A new 200-page monograph by Rizzoli has just been published with contributions by Bob Nickas, Andrea Scott, and Eric Troncy, available from Victoria Miro Gallery. Special exhibition price £35.00 (RRP £40.00).

International Museum Exhibitions 2013 - 2014

A major solo exhibition *Painting 2004-2013* will open at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on November 26, and in Spring 2014 the artist will have his first museum presentation in France at the Musée Départemental D'Art Contemporain, Rochechouart.

Biographical Details

Jules de Balincourt was born in Paris in 1972 and lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. De Balincourt's work has been the subject of a number of international solo exhibitions at institutions including the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan, 2010 and the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery, Nashville, TN, USA. His work has also been included in a number of significant group exhibitions including: *L'Ange de l'Histoire*, curated by Nicolas Bourriaud at le Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris, 2013, *New York Minute*, Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, 2011, *New York Minute*, MACRO, Rome, 2009, the *10th Havana Biennial*, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Cuba, 2009, *21: Contemporary Art at the Brooklyn Museum*, Brooklyn New York, 2008, *USA Today* at the Royal Academy, London and Hermitage, St Petersburg, 2007 - 2008, the *Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 2006, and *Greater New York*, at MoMA / PS1, New York, 2005.

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Opening Times 10am – 6pm. Tuesday to Saturday. Admission Free

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