

The approach

Sam Windett

1 October – 5 November 2017

Opening: Saturday 30 September, 12 -9 pm

For his fourth solo exhibition at The Approach, London-based painter Sam Windett will be presenting a set of new works that draw on memories of motorway travel. Windett mines his personal history of driving across and around the South West of England to create abstracted paintings that surreptitiously evoke themes of time, landscape and repetition. Three-panel compositions echo the three-lanes of the M4, the motorway that connects London to South Wales via Reading, Bristol, Swindon. Scrambled black and white surfaces resemble tarmac and radio static. References to radio compound not only through the painted white noise, but in dial-like forms and contours of numbers and letters. These are also oblique allusions to Christopher Petit's film, *Radio On*, a British road-trip movie which uses both the M4 and the A4 as its unremarkable backdrop, but whose stark black and white aesthetic is interpreted in the paintings with punctuations of dark blues and vibrant reds and greens.

Windett's interest in modern forms of travel can be traced back to previous bodies of paintings which focused on aeroplane crashes. The economic and existential need to transport goods and people across the globe is a fascination for the artist, in particular the potential fatalism embedded within the banal act of boarding a flight, taking a bus, driving a car. The relinquishing of our safety to machines vicariously via pollution and ongoing resource depletion forms part of an everyday violence that places everyone at direct and indirect risk. In sight of this violence, essential for maintaining our current socio-economic order, philosopher Slavoj Žižek suggests that "doing nothing is the most violent thing to do".

Coinciding with his exhibition by Sam Windett, The Approach will also be presenting *Sublime Smoke* in The Approach Annexe, featuring selected works by John Stezaker and Lisa Oppenheim.

Sam Windett (b. 1977 in Kent, UK) lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include; *Sam Windett*, Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, USA (2015); *THIS PANEL IS THAT PAINTING*, The Approach, London, UK (2014); *Billion Watt Bulb*, Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, USA (2010); *Zephyr*, Sies + Höke Galerie, Düsseldorf, Germany (2010). Group exhibitions include *Imagine*, Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy (2016); *Background / Foreground*, Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm, Sweden (2016); *Modest Villa Immense Versailles*, Kinman, London, UK (2016); *The Grantchester Pottery paints the stage*, Jerwood Space, London, UK (2015); *Inside Arrangement*, Mary Mary, Glasgow, UK (2014); *Intersection- Contemporary Abstraction And Figuration*, Online Exhibition curated by Steve Gibson, The Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA, USA (2013).

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