JAKE WOOD-EVANS LEGACY & DISORDER

UNITLONDON



# JAKE WOOD-EVANS LEGACY & DISORDER

British artist Jake Wood-Evans' highly anticipated solo show, *Legacy & Disorder*, centres around Wood-Evans' fascination with the coalescence of past and present. The artist's large-scale oil paintings and drawings convey an altered atmosphere: in his own words, Wood-Evan's work is "a process of conflict with the ambiguous space between representation and abstraction."

Legacy & Disorder follows Wood-Evans' recent 2018 museum exhibition, REPORTRAIT, at the Nottingham Castle Museum and previous solo shows, Subjection & Discipline and Transitions with Unit London. His new body of work focuses on contextualising his fragmented historical figures within transient and synchronously enveloping and imploding spaces. Wood-Evans' views the art historical canon as a precious bounty of possibilities that can be studied, excavated and re-appropriated in original representations. His canvases celebrate the dynamic relationship between the past, present and the possibility of what is yet to come with fragments of all three in the harmonious confluence.



Works in Jake Wood-Evans' studio, 2019

The area surrounding Wood-Evans' figures has become a fertile ground for new energy and experimentation. These spaces evoke a dream-like version of the countryside idylls and stately landscapes often presented in full-length portraits by the likes of Thomas Gainsborough and other influential 18th-century artists referenced by Wood-Evans. Profoundly unnerving, his work is suggestive of the uneasy fantasy of an English ruling class that cannot quite believe its rhetoric and grandeur. The figures, vibrating with ambivalence, are located in a space that refuses to stand still: all is change and movement as if we are viewing the passage of time.

Embracing an element of chaos, Wood-Evans again echoes the practice of past masters, such as Gainsborough's famous *Blue Boy*. By reworking and reusing previously painted and discarded canvases, he introduces an anarchy of shape, form and colour that reflect the pandemonium of life, with past and present in a frenzied overlay.

Jake Wood-Evans' heightened focus on the grandiose dress worn by his subjects is also prominent in these works. His figures are themselves dichotomies – they remain simultaneously relevant whilst beginning to vanish into a threatening obscurity. In this way, the paintings are no longer 'about' the individuals depicted on the canvas, but contain an essence, an imprint, that stretches beyond their physical reality. Delighting in the tension between incidence and absence, what Wood-Evans chooses to erase holds the same importance as what remains on the painted surface. In front of our eyes the figures scintillatingly reveal and conceal themselves, inviting the viewer to catch a thread from the unravelling story in front of them. Ultimately, *Legacy & Disorder* offers a refuge amongst the sublime beauty and tranquillity of the paintings, and the turmoil of a constantly shifting, fractured reality.

#### JAKE WOOD-EVANS

In an age dominated by screens and pixelated images, British artist Jake Wood-Evans' work feels like a welcome antidote. Drawing on the legacy of Old Master paintings, his intention is to capture the essence of these historic works without replicating them, depicting familiar, yet obscured subject matter. After his well-received 2016 and 2017 solo exhibitions: Subjection & Discipline and Transitions, both with Unit London, Wood-Evans debuted as a feature artist in his inaugural museum exhibition, REPORTRAIT at the Nottingham Castle Museum in 2018. His work can be found in private collections internationally, across New York, Miami, Malaysia, London and Antwerp.

#### UNIT LONDON

Unit London remains firmly committed to its core principles that art should be celebrated, inclusive and undivided. Founded in 2013, Unit London was born from an innate desire to break down the barriers of elitism and create new innovative pathways into the contemporary art world, recognised for its pioneering approach to digital media and role in expanding and diversifying audiences using new technologies. Since its inception, Unit London has strived to provide a unique and experimental platform for the world's most distinctive emerging talent, showcasing their work to a culturally curious audience across the globe.



Jake Wood-Evans in his studio, 2019

"In Legacy & Disorder, Jake Wood-Evans' third major solo exhibition at Unit London, we are confronted with a tense and gripping collection of paintings which explore the artist's interest in the intangible space between figuration and abstraction. His treatment of renowned British portraits both delight and disturb - encouraging us as viewers to acknowledge their historical significance, but also to question the verity and the permanence of their record.

Over the course of the last five years, Wood-Evans' unrelenting study of 18th-Century British painting has become increasingly complex. Jake's use of light, colour, draftsmanship and heavy mark-making illuminate and define his compositions, whilst his bleaching and staining techniques offer a profound sense of emptiness through an erosion of colour and pigment.

A product of painstaking months of research and development, Legacy & Disorder is one of our most eagerly-anticipated exhibitions to date, and reaffirms Jake's burgeoning reputation as one of the most exciting painters working in the UK."

Joe Kennedy, Co-founder

Jonny Burt, Co-founder

### JAKE WOOD-EVANS LEGACY & DISORDER

<u>Private View: Thursday, 23 May 2019, 18:30 - 21:30</u>

**Dates:** 24 May - 15 June 2019

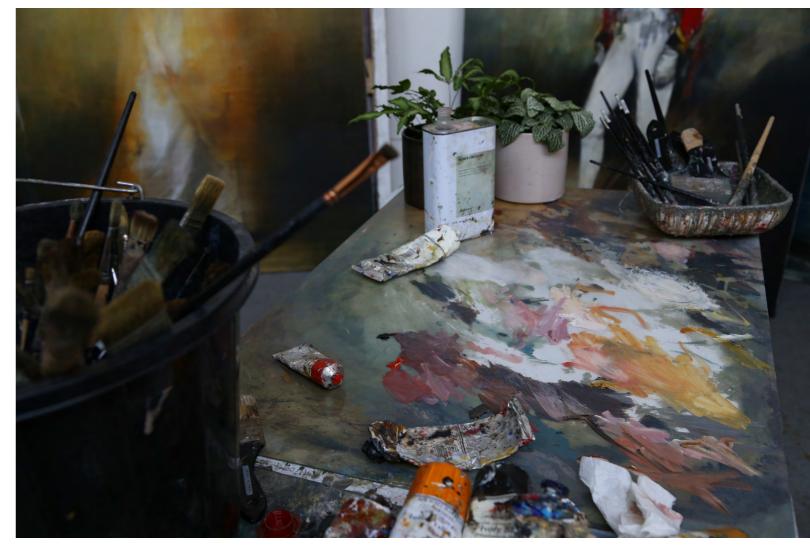
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Materials and Works in Jake Wood-Evans' studio, 2019

Jake Wood-Evans

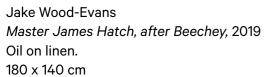
Mrs Grace Dalrymple Elliott, after Gainsborough, 2019

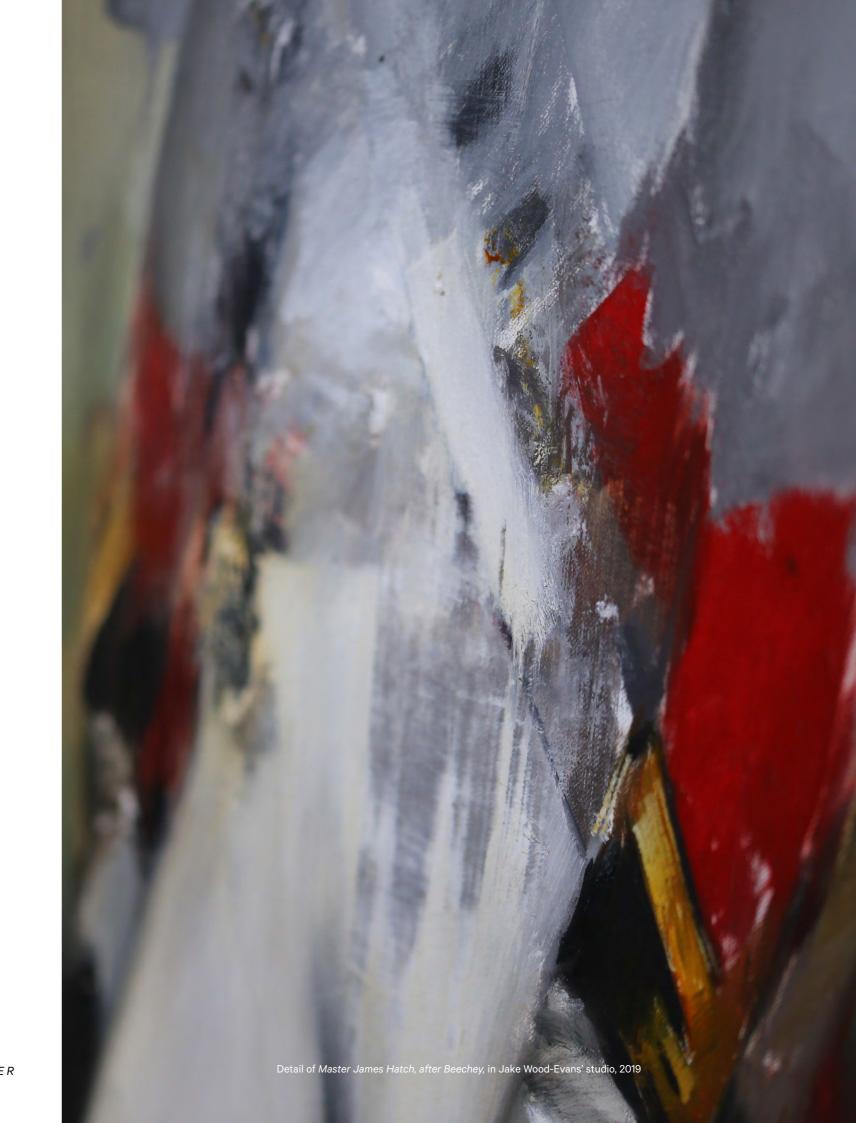
Oil on linen.

220 x 140 cm

£ 25,000 + VAT

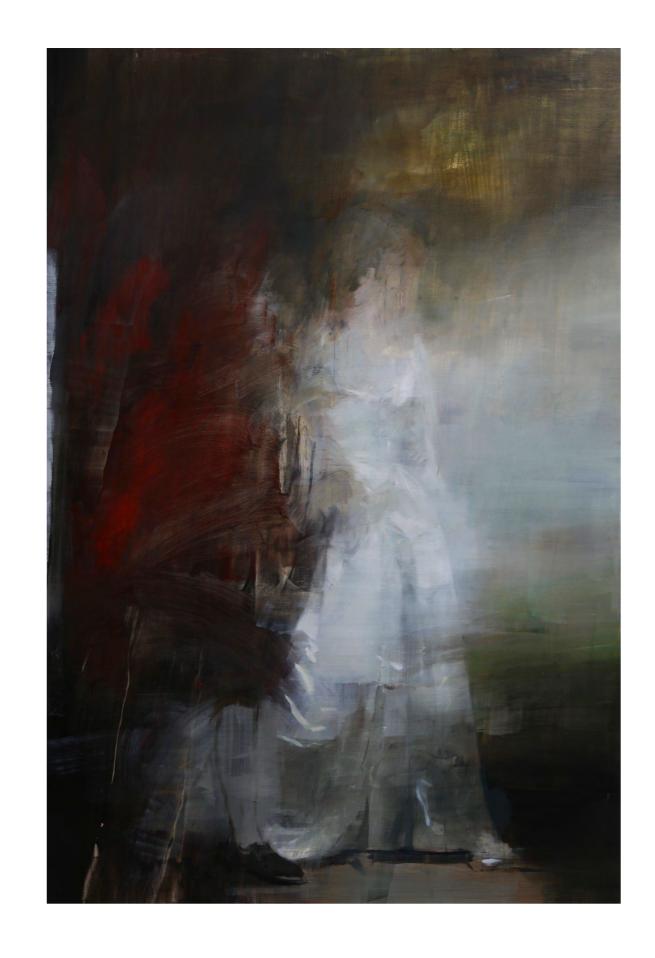






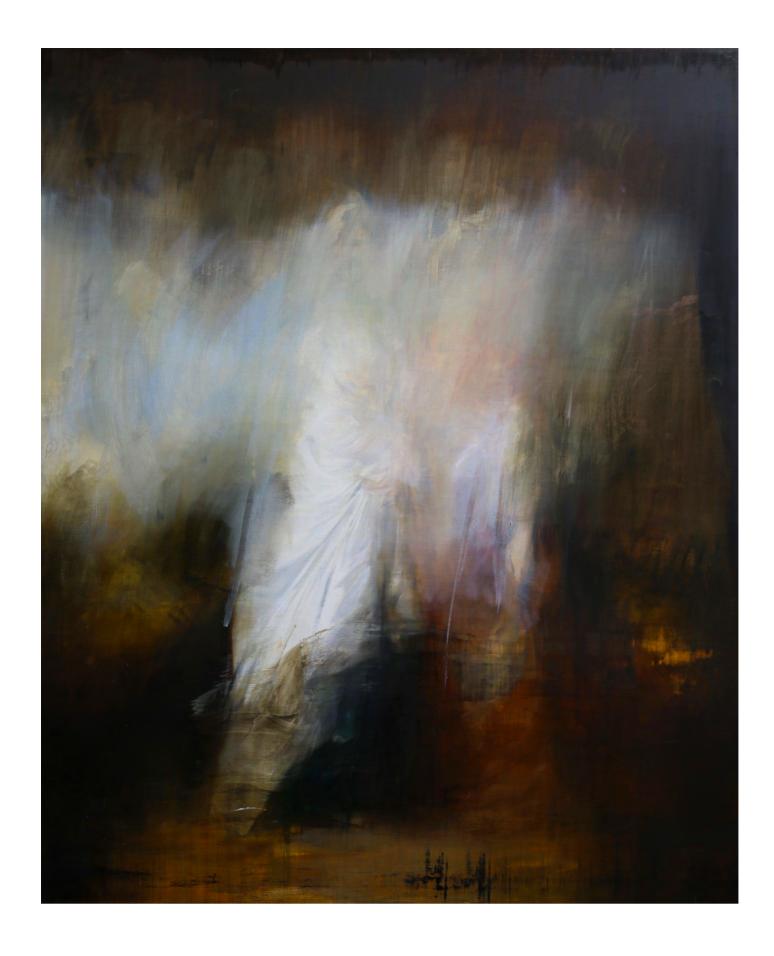


Detail of Sir Christopher and Lady Sykes, after Romney, in Jake Wood-Evans' studio, 2019



Jake Wood-Evans Sir Christopher and Lady Sykes, after Romney, 2019 Oil on linen. 220 x 150 cm

£ 26,000 + VAT





Jake Wood-Evans

Margaret and Mary Gainsborough, after Gainsborough, 2019

Oil on linen.

220 x 180 cm

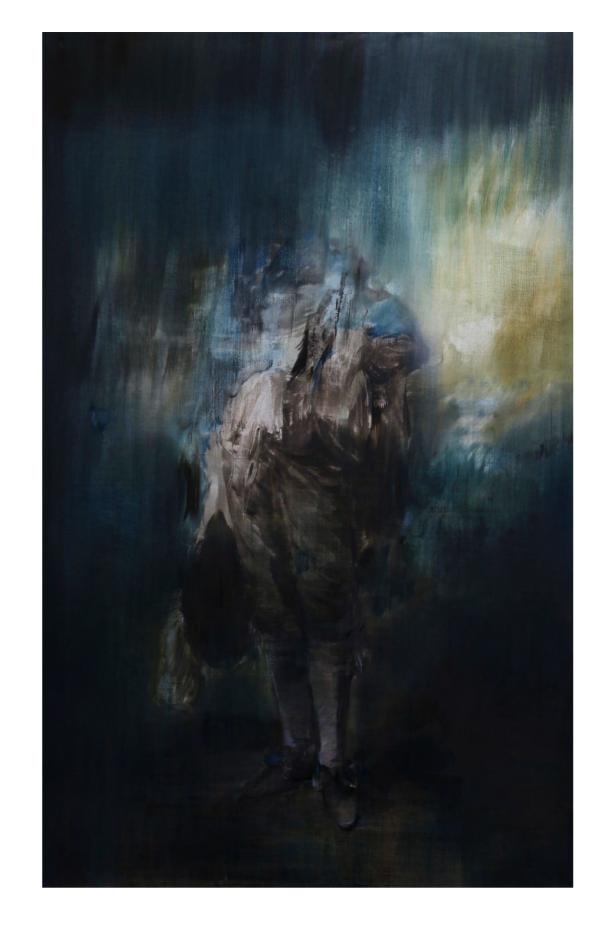
Jake Wood-Evans

Portrait of Queen Charlotte, after Gainsborough, 2019

Oil on linen.

220 x 150 cm



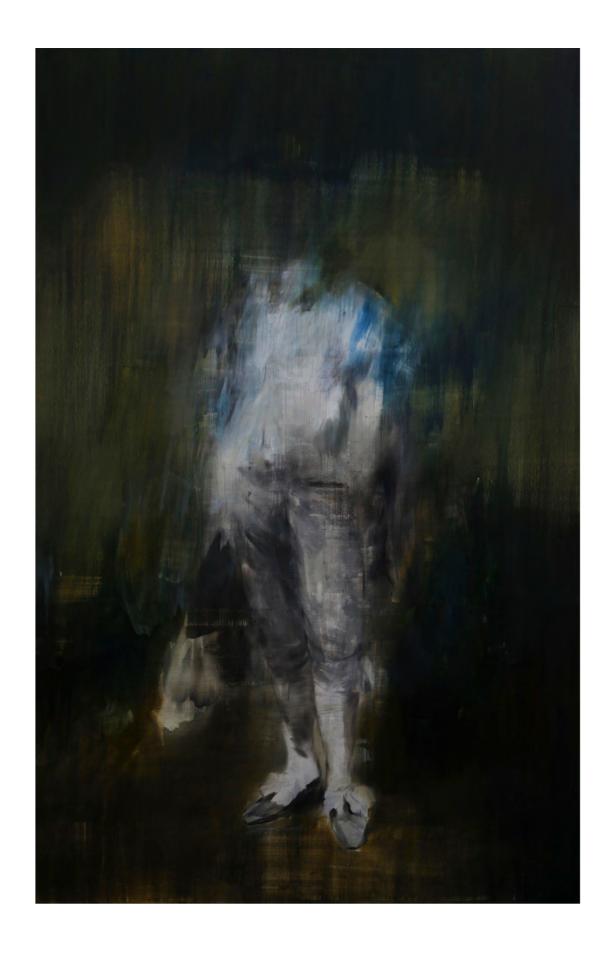


Jake Wood-Evans

The Blue Boy, after Gainsborough I, 2019
Oil on linen.
200 x 128 cm

Jake Wood-Evans

The Blue Boy, after Gainsborough II, 2019
Oil on linen.
200 x 128 cm





Jake Wood-Evans

The Blue Boy, after Gainsborough III, 2019
Oil on linen.
200 x 128 cm

Jake Wood-Evans

Blue Boy Head Studies I - III, 2019

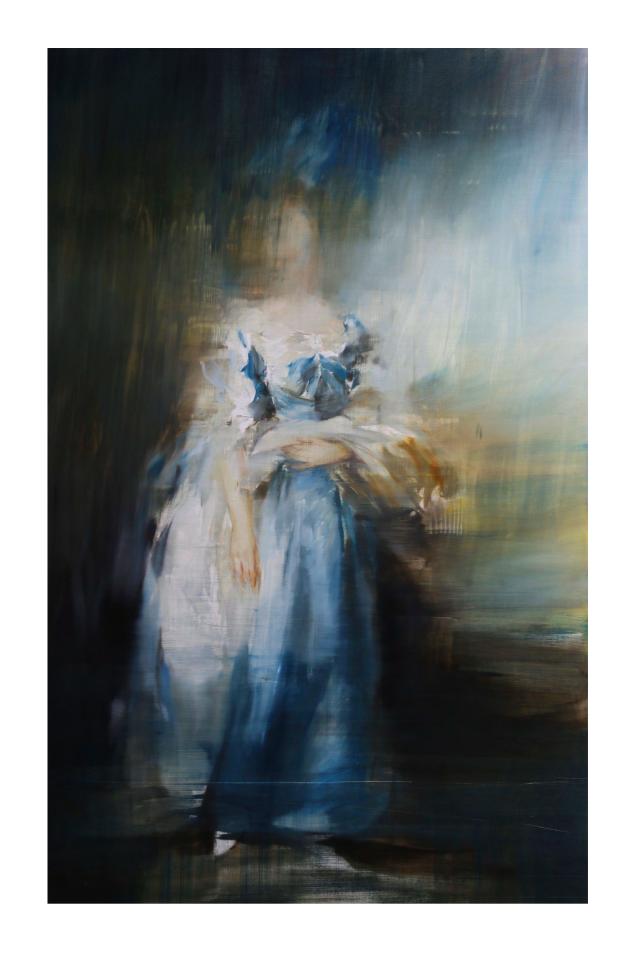
Oil on wood.

38 x 30 cm (each)





Sophia Charlotte Digby, Lady Sheffield, after Gainsborough in Jake Wood-Evans' studio, 2019



Jake Wood-Evans Sophia Charlotte Digby, Lady Sheffield, after Gainsborough, 2019 Oil on linen. 220 x 140 cm

£ 25,000 + VAT





Jake Wood-Evans Study for Princess Sophia, Daughter of George III, after Beechey, 2019 Oil on linen. 157 x 102 cm Jake Wood-Evans Study for Mrs William Villebois, after Gainsborough, 2019 Oil on linen. 157 x 102 cm





Jake Wood-Evans working in his studio, 2019

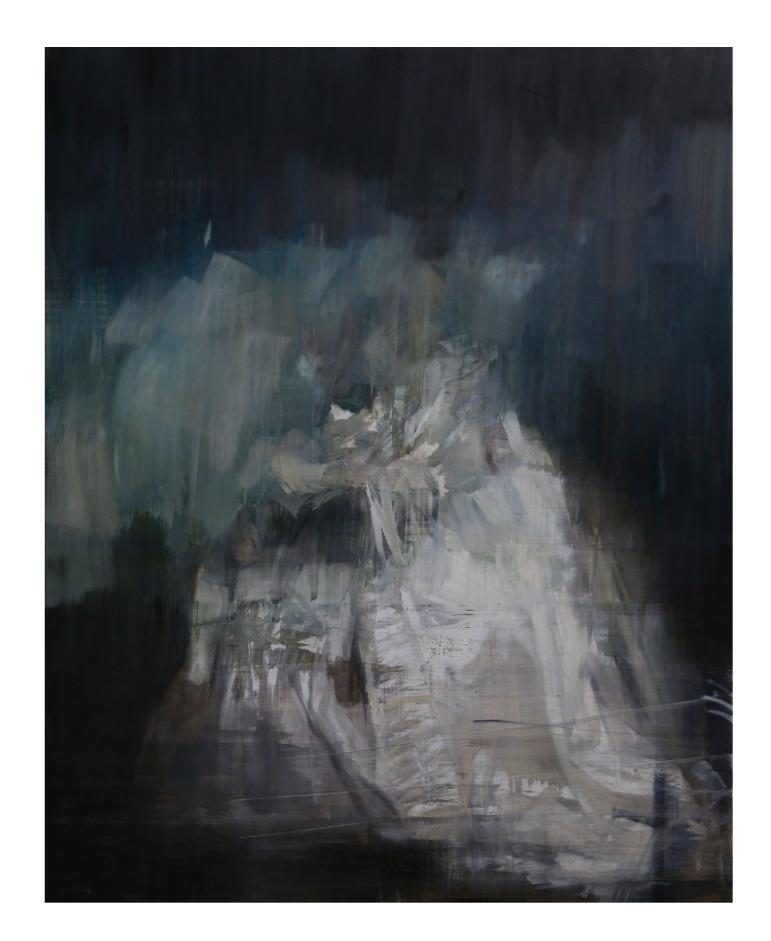
Jake Wood-Evans

Portrait of Mrs Hamilton Nisbet, after Gainsborough, 2019

Oil on linen.

220 x 140 cm

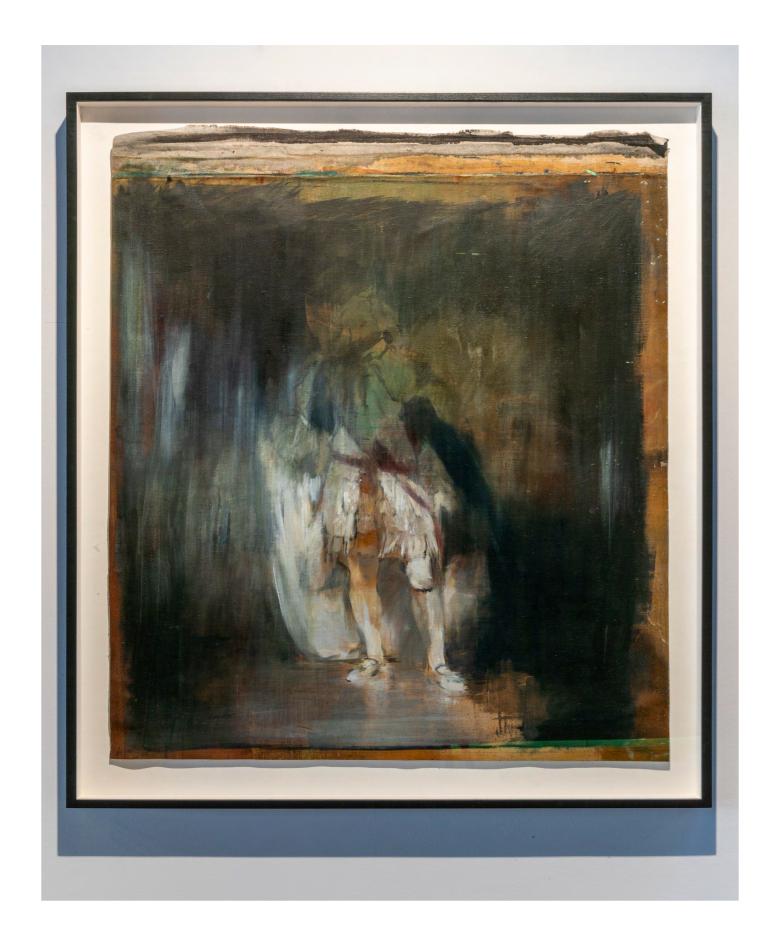
£ 25,000 + VAT

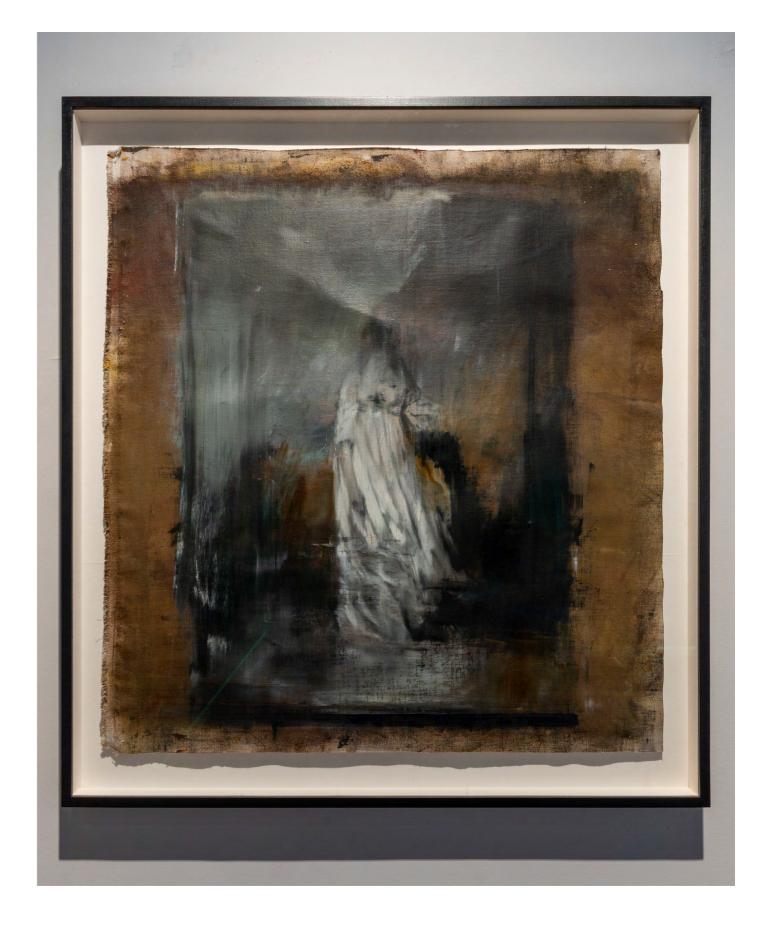




Jake Wood-Evans *Unknown Woman and Child, after Romney,* 2019
Oil on linen.
220 x 160 cm

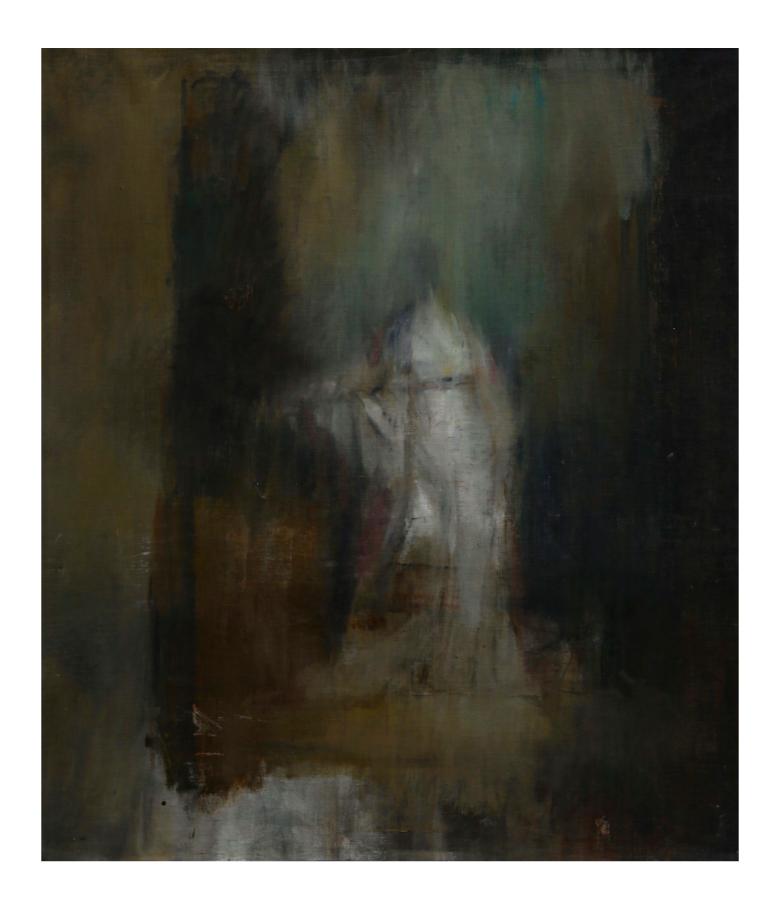
Jake Wood-Evans
Study for Anne, Lady de la Pole, after Romney, 2019
Study for Mrs Thomas Scott Jackson, after Romney, 2019
Study for Mrs Henry Maxwell, after Romney, 2019
Oil on wood.
38 x 30 cm (each)





Jake Wood-Evans Study for George Spencer,  $4^{th}$  Duke of Marlborough, after George Romney, 2019 Oil on linen.  $103 \times 76 \text{ cm}$ 

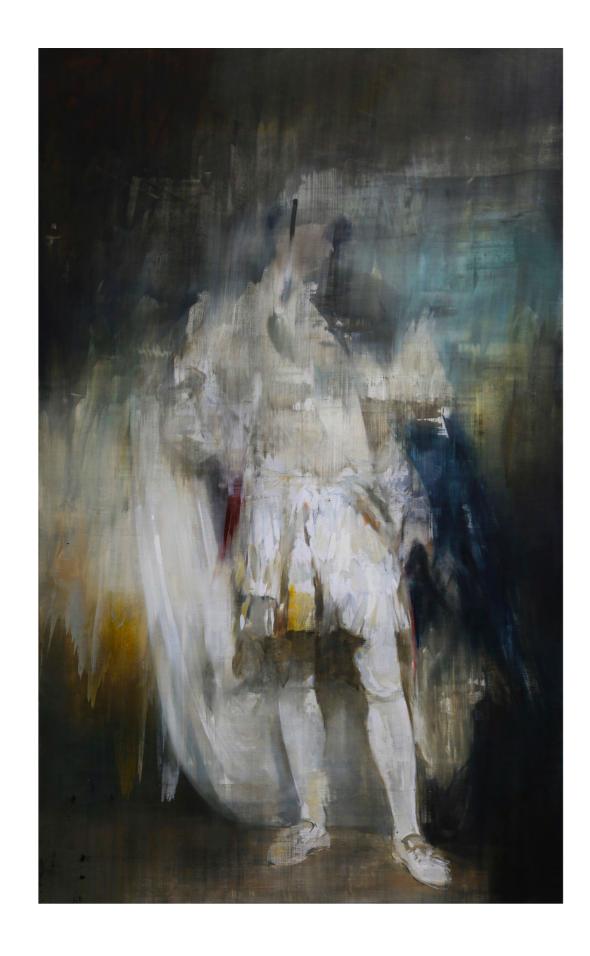
Jake Wood-Evans Study for Lady Doyle, after Lawrence, 2019 Oil on linen. 82 x 75 cm





Jake Wood-Evans Study for Elizabeth Gunning, Duchess of Hamilton and Argyll, after Reynolds, 2019 Oil on linen. 90 x 84 cm

Jake Wood-Evans George IV, when Prince of Wales, after Hoppner, 2019 Oil on linen. 220 x 140 cm





Jake Wood-Evans George Spencer, Duke of Marlborough, after Romney, 2019 Oil on linen. 220 x 135 cm Jake Wood-Evans

The Prince Regent, Later George IV, after Lawrence, 2019

Oil on wood.

220 x 150 cm







Jake Wood-Evans
Study for King George III in coronation robes, after Ramsay, 2019
Study for King George III, after Lawrence, 2019
Oil on wood.
38 x 30 cm

Jake Wood-Evans

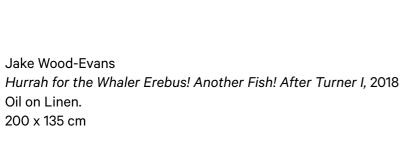
The Battle of Trafalgar, after Turner, 2019
Oil on linen.
160 x 140 cm

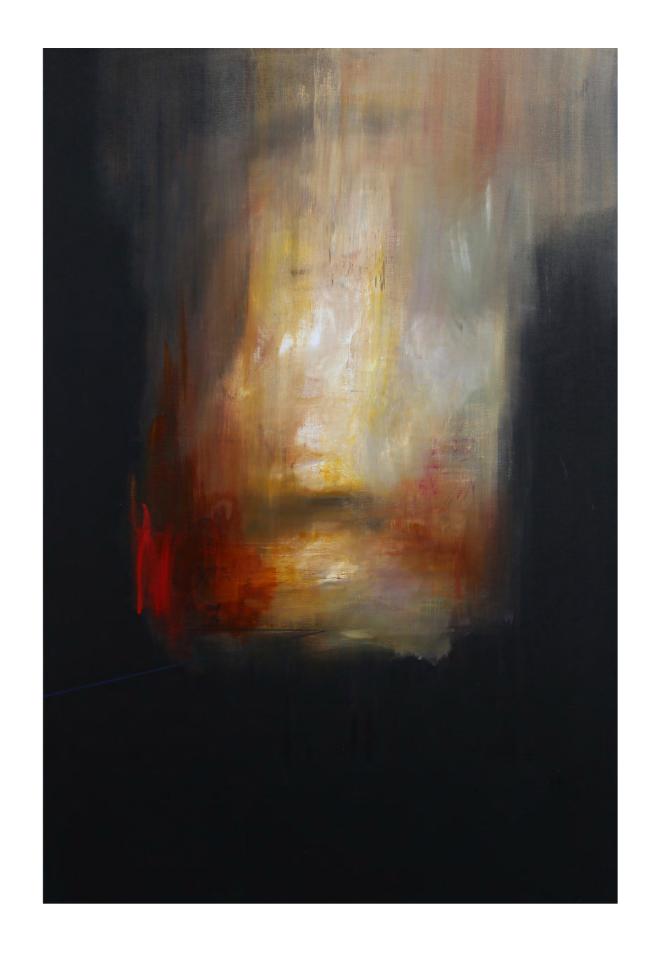




Jake Wood-Evans Storm at Sea I, 2019 Oil on linen. 160 x 140 cm Jake Wood-Evans Storm at Sea II, 2019 Oil on linen. 160 x 140 cm





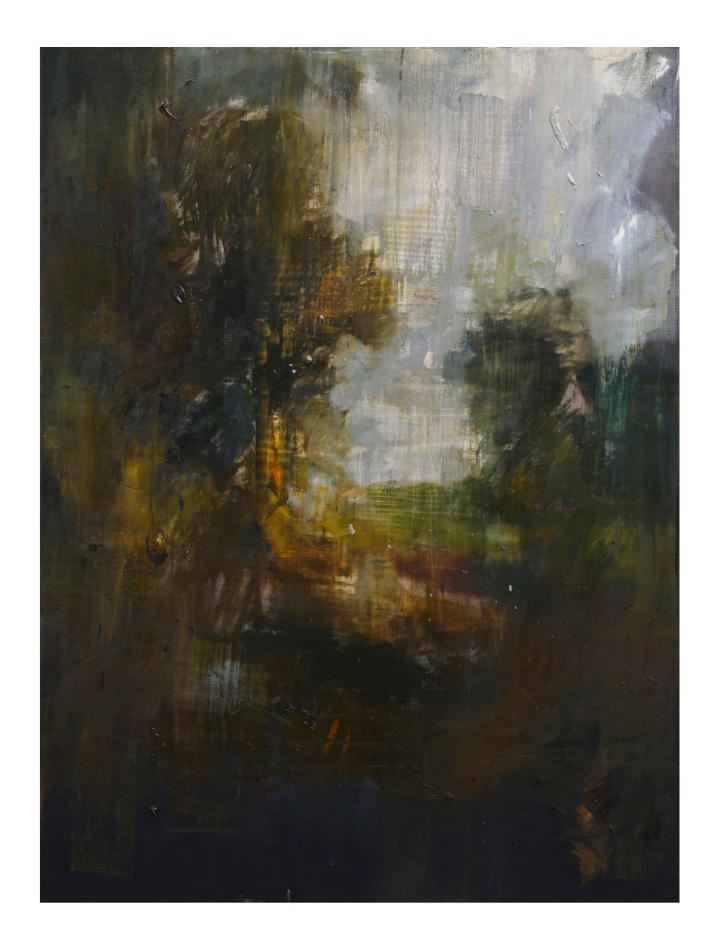


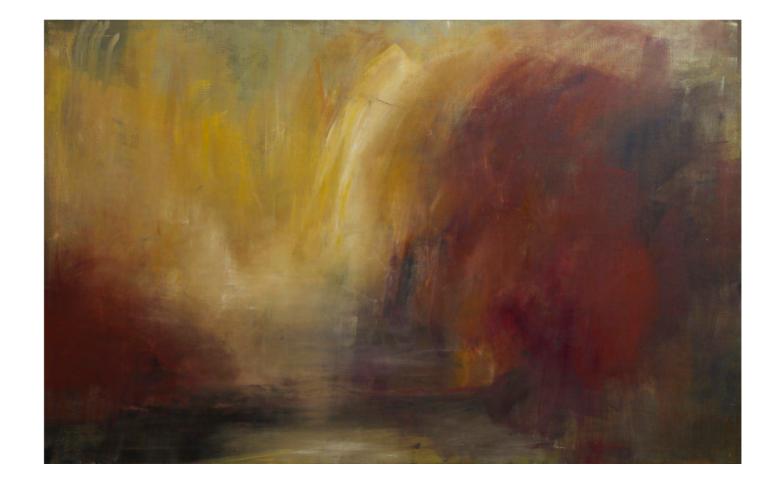
Jake Wood-Evans

Hurrah for the Whaler Erebus! Another Fish! After Turner II, 2018

Oil on linen.

200 x 135 cm





Jake Wood-Evans

The Cornfield, after Constable, 2019
Oil on linen.
163 x 122 cm

Jake Wood-Evans *Untitled Landscape, after Turner,* 2019
Oil on linen.
220 x 140 cm

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