

JAKE WOOD-EVANS

Vanitas

*Musée d'Art Classique
de mougins, France*

15 Oct - 30 Jan

U.

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Cover Image:

Still life with flowers, after Rachel Ruysch, 2021
Graphite on paper
75 x 60 cm



JAKE WOOD-EVANS

Vanitas

15 Oct - 30 Jan

Jake Wood-Evans' new body of work, entitled *Vanitas*, forms his first solo exhibition with Mougins Museum. Influenced by traditional 'vanitas' artworks that symbolise the transience of life and painted during the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, the artist uses inspiration from the past while simultaneously engaging with a distinctly contemporary mood. The pieces combine the possibility of an attempted communal return to the beauty and bounty of nature with the inescapable reality in which we find ourselves at the present moment. In this sense, Wood-Evans' paintings convey a modern day memento mori; preoccupations with mortality, identity, histories, loss and fear have been hard to avoid in recent times. At the same time, this concept of the 'vanitas' serves equally to inspire, motivate and clarify.

References within the collection draw from the Golden Age of painting in the 17th century. They include works by Ambrosius Bosschaerts the Elder, Jan Brueghel the Elder, Jan Davidsz de Heem and several female artists of the time, such as Maria van Oosterwyck and Rachel Ruysch. Wood-Evans' ethereal flower paintings are

formed of combinations and reorderings of these references, just as the original artists merged flowers from different continents and seasons in a single work, creating illusions of reality by rearranging and reusing individual floral studies in several subsequent works.

Vanitas follows Wood-Evans' last solo show, *Relic*, which referenced great altarpieces by Old Masters such as Rubens and Van Dyck, contemporaries of the Dutch Golden Age artists. Like the altarpiece works, Wood-Evans' still life compositions present bountiful, authentically impossible arrangements of flowers while creatures and adornments provide powerful moralistic allegories. The paintings arc upwards in a celestial exhibition of light and darkness, at once representing the brevity of life and the promise of an eternal afterlife. The flowers seem to blossom upwards, reaching towards the heavens, while those blooms that fall below wilt and wither, shrouded in shadow.

In and of itself, Wood Evans' practice is a form of vanitas. The subjects within the paintings that form his exhibition are, in turn, revealed and concealed



behind tarnished and dissolving facades. Underneath dappled light, transient shapes form and reform across the surface of the linen. These works are made in moments of experimentation. Similar to Picasso's description of his own work as 'a sum of destructions', Wood-Evans' builds and demolishes in the same instant. A canvas is rarely discarded, even though the artist admits his process often risks the overworking of an idea to the point of elimination. Surfaces are reused and recycled, ideas are reborn and adapted while bearing the imprint of what has passed before. Details dissolve to form altered and retranslated versions of themselves, almost becoming visual equivalents of

palimpsests. In Wood-Evans' *Vanitas*, the traces of previous workings remain and are celebrated, encouraged even, rather than denied, becoming integral to the final image.

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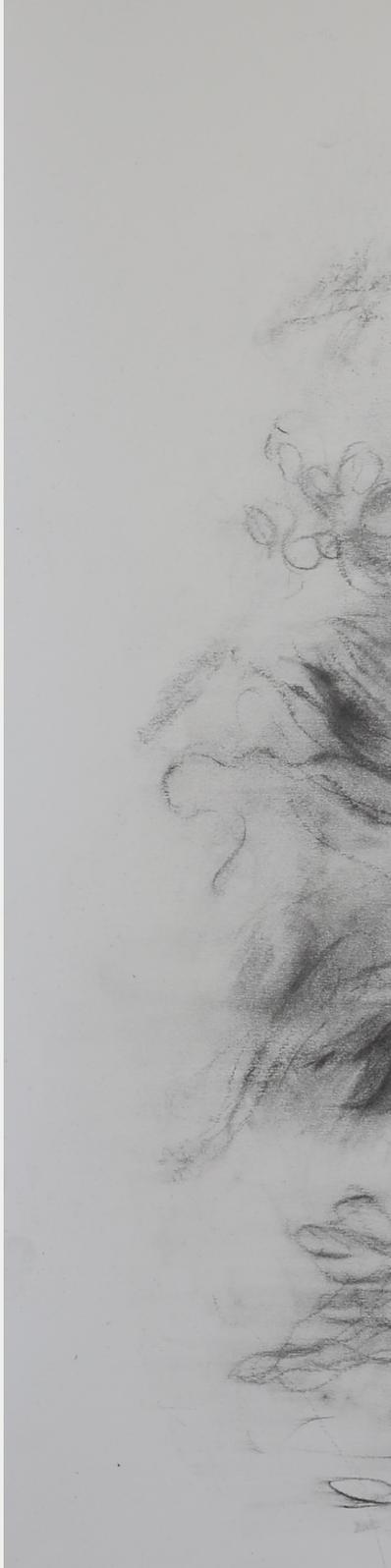
Above:
Vase with tulips, after Andries Daniels, 2021
Oil on linen
57 cm x 45 cm

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JAKE WOOD-EVANS

Vanitas

Exhibited Works







Drawing from Dutch Still Lives I, 2021
Graphite on paper
172 x 138 cm
£ 14,000 ex. VAT





Drawing from Dutch Still Lives II, 2021
Graphite on paper
172 cm x 138 cm
£ 14,000 ex. VAT





Drawing from Dutch Still Lives I, 2021
Graphite on paper
172 x 138 cm
£ 14,000 ex. VAT



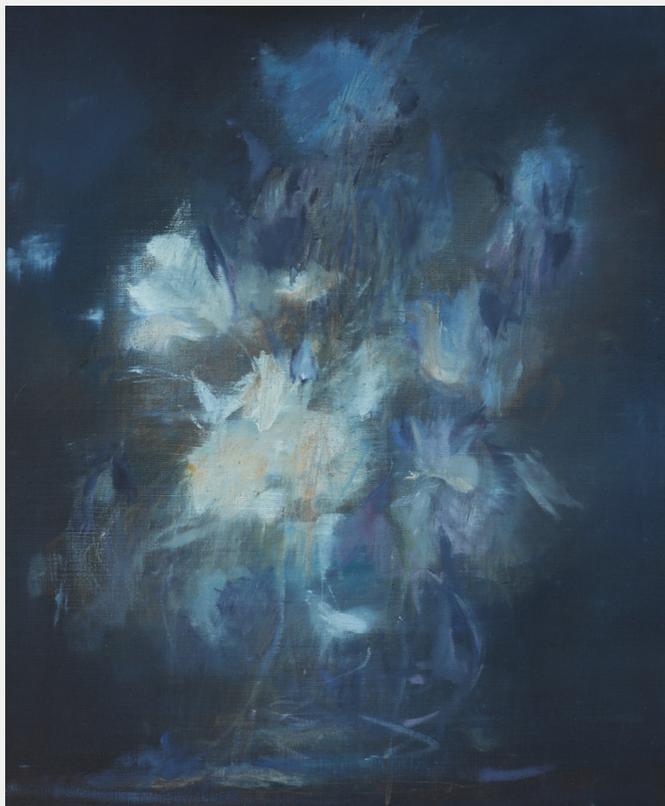
Drawing from Dutch Still Lives II, 2021
Graphite on paper
172 cm x 138 cm
£ 14,000 ex. VAT



Still life with flowers, after Rachel Ruysch, 2021
Graphite on paper
75 x 60 cm
£ 5,300 ex. VAT



Vase of flowers, after Jan Davidsz de Heem, 2021
Graphite on paper
75 x 60 cm
£ 5,300 ex. VAT



Flowers in a vase, after Rachel Ruysch, 2021
Oil on linen
67 x 56 cm
£ 7,500 ex. VAT

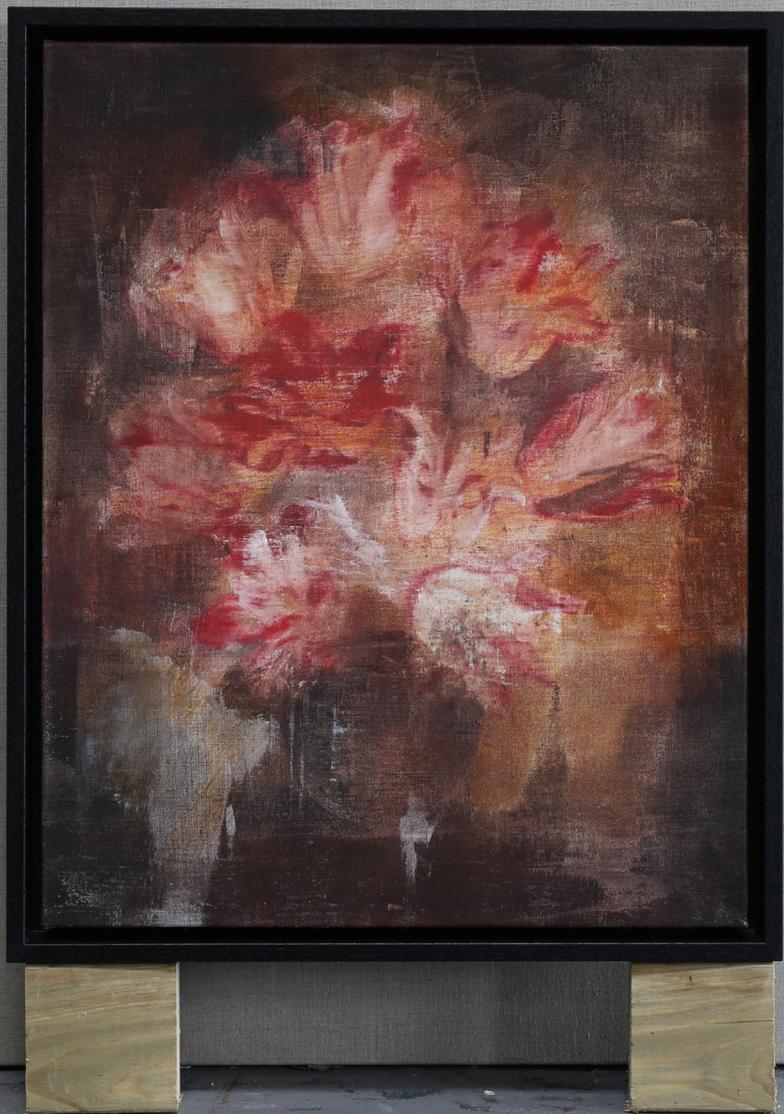


Still life after Jan Davidsz de Heem, 2021
Oil on linen
160 cm x 140 cm
£ 16,000 ex. VAT



Still Life after Jan Davidsz de Heem II, 2021
Oil on linen
160 x 140 cm
£ 16,000 ex. VAT







Vase with tulips, after Andries Daniels, 2021
Oil on linen
57 x 45 cm
£ 6,500 ex. VAT

Jake WOOD-EVANS
B.1980
Based in Lewes, East Sussex

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Introduction

Jake Wood-Evans' work is a manifestation of his complex relationship with British art history. At once haunting and seductive, evocative and familiar, Wood-Evans' oeuvre resists a definitive interpretation. 18th Century figures appear as apparitions, wreathed in gossamer oils they peer out from linen canvases: faceless, ghoulish memories of an imperial past.

Education

BA Hons in Fine Art from Falmouth University

Scholarship at The Royal Academy of Arts

Solo Exhibitions

2021

Vanitas

Mougins Museum Mougins, France

2020

Jake Wood-Evans: Relic

The Gallery, Winchester Discovery Centre, UK

2019

Legacy & Disorder

Unit London, UK

2017

Transitions

Unit London, UK

Art Wynwood

Art Wynwood Miami, USA

2016

Subjection & Discipline

Unit London, UK

2015

Lawrence Acquisition Campaign

The Holburne Museum Bath, UK

2014

Darkness Visible

Leyden Gallery, UK

Group Exhibitions

2020

Draw Together (online)

Unit London, UK

2019

MTV RE:DEFINE

organised by The Gross-Michael Foundation, Dallas, Texas

2017

Avant Art

Unit London, UK

Paintguide

Unit London, UK

Reportrait

Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery, UK

Press (selected)

March 2020

'Interview with Jake Wood-Evans' Visual Atelier 8
'My Top 5 Favourite Art Pieces, Zandile Tshabalala,' 10and5
'Interview with Jake Wood-Evans,' Visual Atelier 8

February 2020

'Jake Wood-Evans: Interview,' Studio International
'Jake Wood-Evans: Relic,' Hastings Independent Press

January 2020

'The Times: Critics' Choice of what to watch, see and do this week,' The Times Online

December 2019

'Jake Wood-Evans New Solo Exhibition,' Trebuchet Magazine

November 2019

'Zandile Tshabalala // Unapologetically Redefining Representation'

June 2019

'The Top 7 Art Exhibitions to see in London in June,' FAD Magazine
I used to paint walls rather than Old Masters, says artist Jake Wood-Evans,' Voice Magazine

May 2019

'Jake Wood-Evans on why he wishes to visit Andy Warhol's The Factory and more,' GQ
'The Week Ahead,' Observer
'Jake Wood-Evans – Legacy and Disorder,' Considering Art
'Exhibition of the Week: 'Legacy & Disorder' by Jake Wood-Evans at Unit London,' ViewZine
'Legacy & Disorder: A Look at Jake Wood-Evans,' Hastings Independent

December 2019

'Jake Wood-Evans New Solo Exhibition,' Trebuchet Magazine
'The Top 7 Art Exhibitions to see in London in June,' FAD Magazine

December 2017

'Further into abstraction': Nine minutes with Jake Wood-Evans,' After Nyne
'Jake Wood-Evans Makes another 'Transition,' Juxtapoz Magazine

May 2017

'Reportrait,' a-n

September 2016

'Jake Wood-Evans at Unit London,' Artversed

August 2016

'BBC London News Feature on Subjection and Discipline,' BBC News
'Young at Art,' Evening Standard
'Subversion of the Classic..Nine Minutes with Jake Wood-Evans,' After Nyne
'Jake Wood-Evans 'Subjection and Discipline,' Juxtapoz Magazine
'6 Must-See Exhibitions in August,' The Londonist

August 2015

'Jake Wood-Evans – Shades of Night,' Wall Street International

September 2014

'Modern Portraiture in Covent Garden,' The Londonist
'The Unit London exhibition private view,' Tatler web feature

Breakthrough gallery The Unit London celebrates its first anniversary with new exhibition called 'U,' Mail Online

'U - The Unit London Gallery,' The Huffington Post

August 2014

'U: 19 Sep-18 Oct 2014 at The Unit London,' Wall Street International

'Preview - U @ The Unit London,' FAD Magazine

'U - Contemporary Portraiture,' Widewalls

May 2014

'Darkness Visible - Jake Wood-Evans,' Laissez Faire

October 2013

'The Work of Jake Wood-Evans,' Gulliver Looks

'Jake Wood-Evans,' Empty Kingdom

September 2013

'Jake Wood-Evans,' Ignan

Collections

Di Donna Collection, USA

The Goss-Michael Foundation,

USAZeifang Collection

Verhuelsdonk Collection

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