



UNIT LONDON

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Jake Wood-Evans - *Altered Lands*

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Cover:

Water Lilies, after Benjamin Williams Leader (detail), 2023
Oil on canvas
205 x 265 cm

Right:

*Portrait of Mrs Lowndes-Stone,
after Sir Thomas Gainsborough, (detail), 2023*
Oil on canvas
213 x 121 cm



Foreword

Jake Wood-Evans: *Altered Lands*

“I’m sick of Portraits and wish very much to take my Viol da Gamba and walk off to some sweet Village, where I can paint landscapes and enjoy the fag End of life in quietness and ease.” Thomas Gainsborough

Inspired by the words of painter Thomas Gainsborough, Jake Wood-Evans’ newest solo exhibition presents a conscious shift from figure towards landscape. *Altered Lands* explores references from eighteenth and nineteenth-century English artists, examining how these artworks communicate notions of transience, nostalgia and intangibility through a contemporary lens. With a focus on John Constable, Benjamin Williams Leader and the overlooked landscape works of Gainsborough, Wood-Evans continues to unravel the thread that weaves through his entire practice, using the familiar as a tool to uncover something new.

Altered Lands also demonstrates a change in the artist’s process, presenting a more physical and vigorous use of material than in previous bodies of work. The surfaces of these paintings are scattered with markings; scratchings, scrapings and crosshatches in the paint itself disrupt a direct experience of looking. Each work is therefore clouded by a mist, giving the impression that we are separated from each subject by layers of time. The agitated surfaces of each canvas are balanced by softer edges, evoking the process of memory as a hazy recollection enters our mind only to leave again.





The White Horse, after Constable (detail), 2023
Oil on canvas
165 x 155 cm

In this sense, the exhibition looks at the connection between different artistic practices through time. Wood-Evans specifically considers Constable's comments on Gainsborough's work: "On looking at them, we find tears in our eyes and know not what brings them." With this in mind, the artist contemplates the more intangible ideas that lie behind landscape as a subject matter. Considering the emotional, almost sublime, qualities of landscape, Wood-Evans plays with themes that might be thought of as too sentimental in our contemporary art world. Ultimately, *Altered Lands* upends our expectations of a familiar genre, using it as a vehicle to explore more expansive meaning.

As his own artistic practice progresses, Wood-Evans has noticed a gradual disappearance of the human figure. In previous bodies of work, the artist excavated his reference imagery, stripping back layer after layer until only ghostly apparitions remained. *Altered Lands* seems to present a natural progression in which the figure disappears almost completely. The two figure paintings in the exhibition, inspired by Gainsborough portraits, seem to bridge the gap between Wood-Evans' past bodies of work and the new ideas demonstrated in *Altered Lands*. These landscape paintings are able to evade notions of human mortality and fragility, representing something more timeless and eternal. However, these representations are set against the physicality of nature itself, as Wood-Evans imagines walking in the footsteps of Gainsborough or Constable to discover how the landscapes that they painted have been altered by time.

Featured Artworks

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Right:

Water Lilies, after Benjamin Williams Leader (detail), 2023
Oil on canvas
205 x 265 cm





Portrait of Mrs Lowndes-Stone,
after Sir Thomas Gainsborough, 2023
Oil on canvas
213 x 121 cm

ENQUIRE





Mrs Peter William Barker,
after Gainsborough, 2023
Oil on canvas
213 x 121 cm

ENQUIRE

Artist reference



Thomas Gainsborough
Mrs. Peter William Baker, 1778
Oil on canvas
228 x 152 cm



Stratford Mill, after Constable, 2023
Oil on canvas
165 x 155 cm

ENQUIRE



Landscape with Stream and Weir,
after Thomas Gainsborough, 2023
Oil on canvas
155 x 175 cm

ENQUIRE



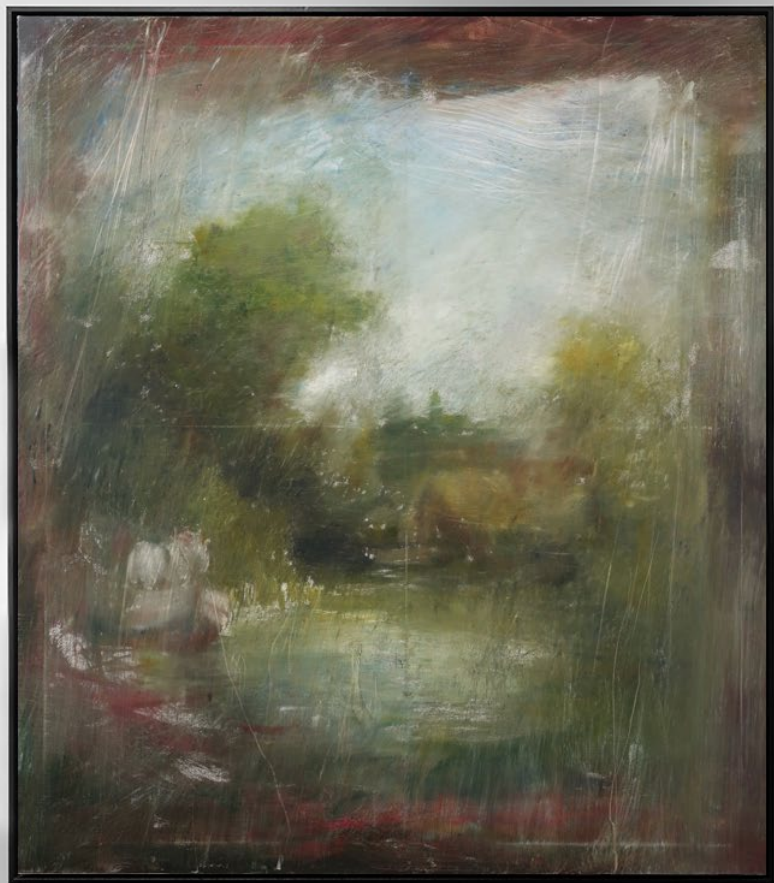
Water Lilies, after Benjamin Williams Leader, 2023
Oil on canvas
205 x 265 cm

ENQUIRE

Artist reference



Thomas Gainsborough
Mrs. Peter William Baker, 1778
Oil on canvas
228 x 152 cm



The White Horse, after Constable, 2023
Oil on canvas
165 x 155 cm

ENQUIRE

Artist reference



John Constable
The White Horse, 1819
Oil on canvas
132 x 189 cm

Biography

Jake Wood-Evans

Jake Wood-Evans (b.1980) is considered one of the leading figures of contemporary British painting. He holds a BA Hons in Fine Art from Falmouth University, and was subsequently awarded a scholarship from the Royal Academy for classical study at the Prado museum in Madrid. Drawing on the legacy of 18th century British masters, Wood-Evans' work has been viewed as much-needed escapism from a world dominated by the digital.

He has exhibited with museums including the Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery (UK), The Holburne (UK), Winchester Discovery Centre (UK) and more recently, the Mougins Museum of Classical Art (France). Wood-Evans' work can be found in multiple prominent collections including Sagol Family Collection, Tel Aviv; The Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas, USA; Verhuelsdonk Collection, Hamburg, Germany; Mougins Museum Collection, Mougins, France and the Bunker Foundation (Rudwin DeWoody Collection), LA, USA. The artist has presented three well received solo exhibitions with Unit London followed by his latest solo exhibition, entitled *The Edge of Reality* (2022). The artist currently lives and works near Lewes, East Sussex.



Jake Wood-Evans in the studio, 2023

Jake Wood-Evans**B1980****Based in Lewes, East Sussex****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

- 2022 *The Edge of Reality*, Unit London, London, UK
- 2021 *Vanitas*, Mougins Museum Mougins, France
(Re)Birth of Venus, Pulpo Gallery, Murnau, Germany
- 2020 *Jake Wood-Evans: Relic*, The Gallery, Winchester Discovery Centre, UK
- 2019 *Legacy & Disorder*, Unit London, London, UK
- 2017 *Transitions*, Unit London, London, UK
Art Wynwood, Art Wynwood Miami, USA
- 2016 *Subjection & Discipline*, Unit London, London, UK
- 2015 *Lawrence Acquisition Campaign*, The Holburne Museum Bath, UK
- 2014 *Darkness Visible*, Leyden Gallery, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Revival I - XVIIIe siècle*, co-curated by Laura Gowen and Rachel Cole Sherr, Gowen, Geneva
- 2022 *Nassima Landau*, Tel Aviv, Israel
ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair, Shanghai, China
Que te seja leve o peso das estrelas, Centro de Arte Contemporanea de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
- 2021 *Art Taipei*, Taipei World Trade Center, Taiwan
- 2020 *Draw Together (online)*, Unit London, UK
- 2019 *MTV REDEFINE*, organised by The Gross-Michael Foundation, Dallas, Texas
- 2017 *Avant Art*, Unit London, London, UK
Paintguide, Unit London, London, UK
Reportrait, Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Nottingham, UK

Press (selected)

- 2020 March
'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

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

January

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

2019 December

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

June

'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

'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

2017 December

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

May

'Reportrait', a-n

2016 September

'Jake Wood-Evans at Unit London', Artversed

August

'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

2015 August

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

2014 September

'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

'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

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

2013 October
The Work of Jake Wood-Evans', Gulliver Looks
'Jake Wood-Evans', Empty Kingdom

September
'Jake Wood-Evans', Ignan

Collections

Sagol Family Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel

Jiménez-Colón Collection Popnce, Puerto Rico

The Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas, USA

Verhuelsdonk Collection, Hamburg, Germany

Mougins Museum Collection, Mougins, France

Bunker Foundation (Rudwin DeWoody Collection), LA, USA

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