

Tom Morris:
GARDENING

An exhibition at 65A Charlotte St, London W1T 4PJ
10am–8pm daily 19th–21st June

GARDENING is a new collection of paintings by Tom Morris, exploring the possibilities of translating one of the world's most ancient pursuits into the act of painting.

“Growing up in a suburban town in the Midlands, my mother was very green-fingered, and gardening was a way for us to connect through simple tasks like digging, planting seeds or picking salads leaves for dinner. We made occasional visits to public gardens. I later inherited a couple of her giant jade plants which she had grown from cuttings from her own mother. I think it's human nature to sow seeds and watch plants grow.

Living in London and without a traditional garden of my own, I've consumed nature in a variety of different ways - through the city parks, from TV gardening programmes, and also from landscapes I've physically experienced around Europe and the world in general. The borrowed landscapes of Japanese gardens are very significant for me in the way they frame the wilderness and turn it into a garden.

While convalescing from a heart operation, I re-approached the drawings from the natural world that I'd been making for years inbetween my regular art practise of abstract images. I introduced colour and a more rhythmic attitude to mark-making. Attracted by the slowness of nature, I sought to absorb this into my mind and body. After a few preliminary pieces, my heart beat - which had been in arrhythmia for 6 months - suddenly dropped back into normal sinus rhythm.

In these paintings I am proposing a kind of ownership over the landscape by rendering it onto the canvas; the resulting image becomes its own garden after a point when a certain emotional register is hit and the transformation is complete.

I'm using a paintbrush in the same meditative way that a lawn is mowed, a flower bed planted, or a gravel garden raked.

In an era when images can be produced instantly and with minimal perceived effort, GARDENING places the act of making and the labour this entails in the centre of the work.

GARDENING is not just paintings of gardens, but artworks created using painting as a proxy for the act of gardening. The activity takes place on the canvas rather than in the soil.”

ABOUT TOM MORRIS:

Tom Arthur Morris studied BA Fine Art at Hull School of Art and graduated with an MA from The University of Brighton, with a Post-Graduate in Fine Art at the Akademia Sztuk Pieknych in Krakow inbetween.

In the early 2000s he collaborated with Sian Emmison on a public art film funded by the Amsterdam arts board before entering the world of marketing in London where he worked as a creative director and entrepreneur - co-founding the Bobbin bicycle brand, before exiting to (re) focus on painting.

Working in duality, he creates either wholly abstract or psychedelically-embued landscape images. His references currently include Ivon Hitchens, David Hockney, Megan Rooney, Sky Glabush, and the Catalan painter Joaquim Mir.

A collection of his canvases can be found throughout the Conde-Naste-featured restaurant-hotel Holm in Somerset, and other work is currently on show at Catesbys Gallery in Broadway. His work is also in private collections around the UK. He lives in London and works from Koppel Heights studios in Elephant & Castle.

More details and contact:

www.tomarthurmorris.com

tommorrispainter@instagram.com