

The approach

Sam Windett

HORSES

12 April – 11 May 2024

Preview: Thursday 11 April, 6-9pm

The Approach is pleased to present *HORSES*, a solo exhibition of new work by Sam Windett. Operating between abstraction, landscape and oblique representation, his practice is centred around a process that experiments with accumulating and reworking materials. Through eliminating and editing, modelling and remodelling, Windett allows for the successes and failures of the creative process to be equally crucial aspects of the work.

For 'HORSES', Windett has produced a series of paintings that employ parameters inspired by the standardised design of horseboxes. Windett observed a formal consistency of the exterior size and shape of these objects, whilst the contents (if any) remained concealed and ambiguous. The paintings in *HORSES* emerge from the duality of this repeated framework and the various possibilities of custom design and potential content.

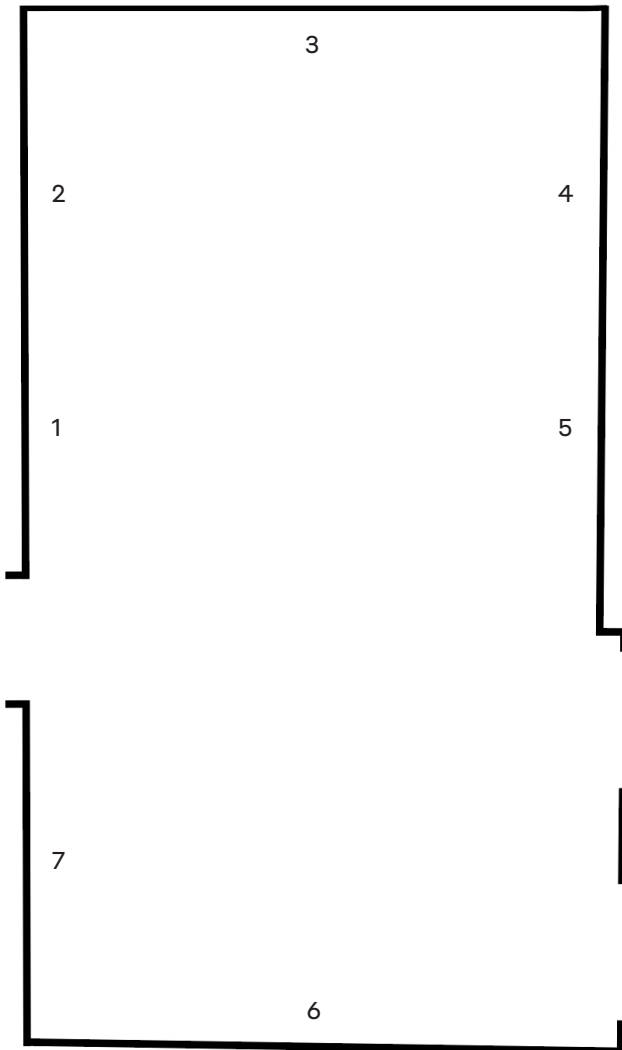
Windett approaches the process of painting from a place of discovery, allowing each work to unfurl without prior planning. In some his distinctive triptych format emerges - the canvas being vertically divided into three sections, perhaps alluding to doorways and entrances, while recurring motifs appear in the margins: numbers, as well as spherical shapes that evoke suns, moons, holes or eyes. Others feature smaller sculptural reliefs that take on the appearance of windows or vignettes. These smaller works each begin with a wooden tray-like border containing compositions suggestive of landscapes; night scenes with moons and stars, and of course the backs of horseboxes. Here the surface is interrupted with collaged elements, cut-outs of linen canvas, painted coils of twine and other studio detritus. These works have an existential quality to them, understood as portals, they allow a space for contemplation, where one can be on the inside projecting one's desires outwards, or stood on the outside looking in.

For *HORSES*, Windett wanted to create paintings that would be perceived as physical objects, therefore this show emerges as a resistance to contemporary image culture and consumption. Windett's deliberate incorporation of physical elements and textures invites viewers to engage with the artworks on a visceral level, counteracting the overwhelming digital saturation we experience online by showcasing works made so evidently by hand and with a tactility and materiality that can only be enjoyed fully IRL.

Sam Windett (b. 1977, Kent, UK) lives and works in Kent. Recent solo exhibitions include; *MMXX*, The Approach, London, UK (Online) (2020); *REMODEL*, The Approach, London, UK (2019); *Condo NYC*, Marinaro, New York, USA (2018); *Motorway IV*, The Approach, London, UK (2017); *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; *The Reason for Painting*, Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, UK (2023), *Rose des Vents*, Park, Tilburg, Netherlands, *Aftermath*, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany (2019); *Several Options*, Horse and Pony, Berlin, Germany; *20 Years*, The Approach, London, UK (2017); *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*, The Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA, USA (2013).

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1. *Milk*, 2024
Oil on calico and cotton duck with painted wooden frame
124 x 62 cm
2. *Hope Yes, Fear Yes*, 2024
Oil, acrylic, paper and painted string on board and cotton duck with painted wooden frame
124 x 62 cm
3. *Glider*, 2024
Oil and acrylic on cotton duck and calico
182 x 172 cm
4. *Decline (with #1)*, 2024
Oil and acrylic on linen and calico with painted wooden frame
124 x 62 cm
5. *Wet Brain*, 2024
Oil, acrylic, paint pots and painted string on board and calico with painted wooden frame
124 x 62 cm
6. *Horse*, 2024
Oil and acrylic on cotton duck and calico
168 x 157 cm
7. *Oblivion*, 2024
Oil and acrylic on cotton duck and calico
130 x 115 cm

In the office:

Scale, 2024
Oil, acrylic and paint brush over board with painted wooden frame
116 x 71 cm