



**For Immediate Release:**

**Sumer gallery is pleased to present *Headlands*, a new exhibition by Berlin-based New Zealand artist Sam Rountree Williams. The show features a series of large-scale paintings in oil on linen (all 2024). This exhibition marks the artist's second solo presentation at the gallery and his first at Sumer's new space in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.**

Over the past two decades Rountree Williams has developed a distinctive and indelible body of work. In such pieces we see the artist utilising spatial constructs and stylistic devices associated with traditions of folk and naïve art, yet with a palette, materiality and scale of the academy trained. Intent to interrogate the psychological self, such works swell with sense of quiet unease; mapping what the some have described as the 'loneliness of subjective experience.'

The scenarios in his paintings are imagined, and relate to waking reality as a dream does. Of this he says, 'In my paintings there's no before or after what is depicted: they move without going anywhere.' His works feature recurring characters, and often a central, solitary figure—possibly evoking Caspar David Friedrich's romantic work *Wanderer above the Sea of Fog* (1818), albeit in cartoon form. The cartoon an abstraction, working to make the paintings less autobiographical, inviting viewers to project themselves into the role of the protagonist, and thus identifying more directly with the sentiments and situations depicted.

Sam Rountree Williams (b. 1986, Hamilton, New Zealand) lives and works in Berlin. He gained his BFA from Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland, in 2007; and from 2009-10 he was a guest student at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Recent exhibitions include: *Headlands*, Sumer, Auckland (2024); *Nature*, Charim Galerie, Vienna (2023); *Freedom*, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington (2023); *LAZAR!*, Hayden's Gallery, Melbourne (2022); Sam Rountree Williams and Sabine Voltz, Sonneundsolche, Düsseldorf (2019).

**Exhibition Information:**

Sam Rountree Williams, *Headlands*  
Sumer Fine Art, Auckland, 27 Beach Road, Auckland 1010, New Zealand

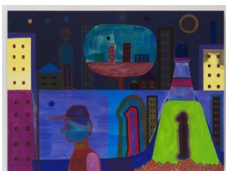
Dates: 14 November – 14 December 2024

Opening reception: 14 November, 5:30 – 7:30pm. All welcome. The artist will be in attendance.



## SAM ROUNTREE WILLIAMS HEADLANDS

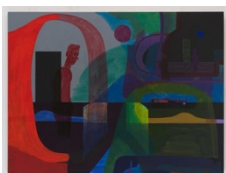
SUMER, TAMAKI MAKAURAU  
14 NOVEMBER – 14 DECEMBER 2024



**Sam Rountree Williams**

*Satellites*, 2024

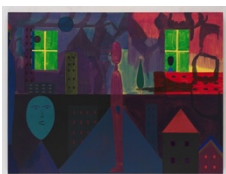
Oil on linen  
208 x 156 cm  
82 x 61 1/2 in  
(SRW-000017)



**Sam Rountree Williams**

*Headlands*, 2024

Oil on linen  
204 x 153 cm  
80 1/4 x 60 1/4 in  
(SRW-000018)



**Sam Rountree Williams**

*Gothic*, 2024

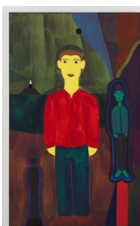
Oil on linen  
204 x 153 cm  
80 1/4 x 60 1/4 in  
(SRW-000019)



**Sam Rountree Williams**

*Nightsong*, 2024

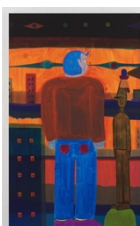
Oil on linen  
205 x 124 cm  
80 3/4 x 48 7/8 in  
(SRW-000013)



**Sam Rountree Williams**

*Sun*, 2024

Oil on linen  
205 x 124 cm  
80 3/4 x 48 7/8 in  
(SRW-000014)



**Sam Rountree Williams**

*Jupiter*, 2024

Oil on linen  
205 x 124 cm  
80 3/4 x 48 7/8 in  
(SRW-000016)



**Sam Rountree Williams**

*Pothole*, 2024

Oil on linen

140 x 105 cm

55 x 41 1/4 in

(SRW-000015)



# SAM ROUNTREE WILLIAMS

Born 1986, Hamilton  
Lives and works in Berlin

## EDUCATION

2012 – 2013 Turps Studio Programme, London  
2009 - 2010 Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Guest Student (Brandl Class)  
2003 - 2007 Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, BA/BFA

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2024  
Headlands, Sumer, Auckland (solo)  
How to Fight Loneliness, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

2023  
Freedom, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington (solo)  
Nova, Sumer, Auckland  
Nature, Charim Galerie, Vienna  
Sumer, Aotearoa Art Fair, Auckland

2022  
LAZAR!, Haydens Gallery, Melbourne

2021  
*Dreamers*, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington (solo)  
Robert Heald Gallery, Auckland Art Fair, Auckland

2020  
Sam Rountree Williams, Sumer, Tauranga (solo)  
Illuminations, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington

2019  
Cell, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington (solo)  
Sam Rountree Williams and Sabine Voltz, Sonneundsolche, Düsseldorf

2018  
Sam Rountree Williams and L&Z Elements, May&Kuhn, Berlin  
Clair-Obscure, Karl-Marx Allee 75, Berlin

2017  
Robert Heald Gallery, Spring 1883 Art Fair, Sydney (with David Cauchi)

2015  
Sam Rountree Williams, Mother, Berlin (solo)

2013  
A Swarming, Talkative Presence, Kingsgate Gallery, London



2012

Dugout, Hopkinson Mossman, Auckland

2011

Nature Culture, St David's Church Hall, Auckland (solo)

Hither Thither, George Fraser Gallery, Auckland (solo)

Marwencol, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington

2010

Sam Rountree Williams, RM, Auckland (solo)

Sam Rountree Williams and Milli Jannides, Victor & Hester, Glasgow

2009

Angels and Demons, Michael Lett, Auckland

2008

Sam Rountree Williams, Newcall Gallery, Auckland (solo)

Red Thing, Blue Thing, Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington, (with Selina Foote)

## GRANTS & AWARDS

Chartwell Trust grant to participate in Turps Studio Programme, London, 2012

Wallace Art Awards (Finalist), Pah Homestead, Auckland, 2011

National Contemporary Art Award (Finalist), Waikato Museum, Hamilton, 2011

Creative New Zealand Grant to study at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, 2009

Chartwell Trust grant to study at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, 2009

Wallace Art Awards (Finalist), Aotea Centre, Auckland, 2009

National Contemporary Art Award (Finalist), Waikato Museum, Hamilton, 2008

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jan Bryant, artist portrait for 'Art Upside Down' series, Goethe Institute, 2022

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/nz/en/kul/sup/kuk/22555608.html>

'HUM Travels to Berlin—Studio Visits', 2021

<https://contemporaryhum.com/writing/hum-travels-to-berlin/>

'Home and Away', *Art News New Zealand*, Autumn 2021

Daniel du Bern interviewing Sam Rountree Williams, 2020

<https://www.sumer.co.nz/sam-rountree-williams>

Hamish Win, 'Cinematic absorption in Sam Rountree Williams' recent paintings', *Circuit*, 2019

<https://www.circuit.org.nz/blog/cinematic-absorption-in-sam-rountree-williams%E2%80%99-recent-paintings>

'Painters from the Turps Painting Programme', *Turps Magazine #13*, 2014

Ed Hanfling, Review of *Paintings Paintings*, *Art New Zealand #138*, 2011

John Hurrell, 'Painting as Evolving Sequence', *Eye Contact*, 2010

[www.eyecontactsite.com/2010/10/painting-as-sequence](http://www.eyecontactsite.com/2010/10/painting-as-sequence)