Mark Corfield-Moore
We Speak Chicken
24.10–09.02

Exhibition Guide
English

Kunsthall Stavanger

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Kunsthall Stavanger is proud to present *We Speak Chicken*, the first exhibition in Norway by British-Thai artist Mark Corfield-Moore. The exhibition is an expanded version of a major new body of work commissioned by and exhibited at Goldsmiths CCA, London earlier this year, with new commissions created by the artist specifically for Kunsthall Stavanger.

Corfield-Moore is a painter who incorporates weaving as a means of translation and play. With a distinctive visual language, recognisable through the use of bold colour and interplay of image and text, he creates works instilled with wit, whimsy and intimacy. Drawing upon personal and collective histories, as well as his experience as part of the British-Thai diaspora, Corfield-Moore examines the unreliability of human memory, allowing past events to take on a life of their own in the present.

In his work, Corfield-Moore employs a hybrid method of painting and *ikat* – a traditional weaving technique that the artist learnt in Thailand – to create warped or "glitchy" imagery that suggests distortion and flux. In each of the four galleries, paintings are loosely grouped by their emotional timbre, highlighting themes such as travel and migration, grief and loss, the friction of straddling two geographies and cultures simultaneously, and imagined representations of Thailand by way of personal memory and second-hand storytelling.

Architectural and spatial imagery is present across the works, depicting structures such as an ancient Greek temple, a dining table, Thai spirit houses, and the internal cavity of a tooth. To the artist, these spaces function as portals or thresholds to a specific time and place, while their graphically rendered facades can also invoke the feeling of being both a guest and an outsider. In Kunsthall Stavanger's galleries, the artworks are hung at the same low level, grounding the imagery and creating a sense of spaces within a space. Rather than centred on the gallery walls, the artworks congregate allowing themes and associations to emerge from the works' proximity to one another.

The exhibition's title, *We Speak Chicken*, references the lack of a shared language between Corfield-Moore and his Thai mother, and points to cooking and food as a mutual means of communication. Both food and language are things that can be transferred, shared, ingested, and processed. Feelings can be understood in the gut when language falls short. As the artist states, 'I think I'm replicating in the viewer how I feel when I'm trying to talk with my mother. Simple words, basic tone and emotion; there is an intimacy, but it's also fractured'.

Despite its limitations, Corfield-Moore is interested in the poetic potential of language. Various phrases feature in each work, evoking fragmented communication and a sense of being in-between understandings. Like poetry, in these works image, text, and title coalesce fleetingly to spark ever new connections in the viewer.

With Corfield-Moore's linguistic play through metaphor and association, *We Speak Chicken* at Kunsthall Stavanger explores our universal human experience of yearning for connection and belonging. By using memory as his medium, he explores its inherent fragility and malleability, while inviting viewers into a dialogue with their own intimate recollections.

Mark Corfield-Moore (b. 1988) was born in Bangkok and lives and works in Hastings. Previous solo exhibitions include Goldsmiths CCA, London, UK (2024); Devonshire Collective, Eastbourne, UK (2023); Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain (2022); Cob Gallery, London, UK (2021); and Wolfson College, Cambridge, UK (2018). Selected group exhibitions include Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK (2023); Spazio Musa, Turin, Italy (2023); Galerie Slika, Lyon, France (2023); Saatchi Gallery, London, UK (2022), Swedish Institute, Paris, France (2022), Royal Academy of Art, London, UK (2022); Turner House, Cardiff, UK (2021), Galerie Britta Rettberg, Munich, Germany (2021), Platform Southwark, London, UK (2021); New Art Centre, Salisbury (2020), Plain Gallery, Milan, Italy (2020), Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK (2020).

GALLERY 2

1. Jelly, Your Favourite (2024). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 193 x 163cm.

2. A Life Altering Conversation (2024). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 233 x 193 cm.

3. Grand Palace Gates (Bangkok) (2024). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 243 x 193 cm.
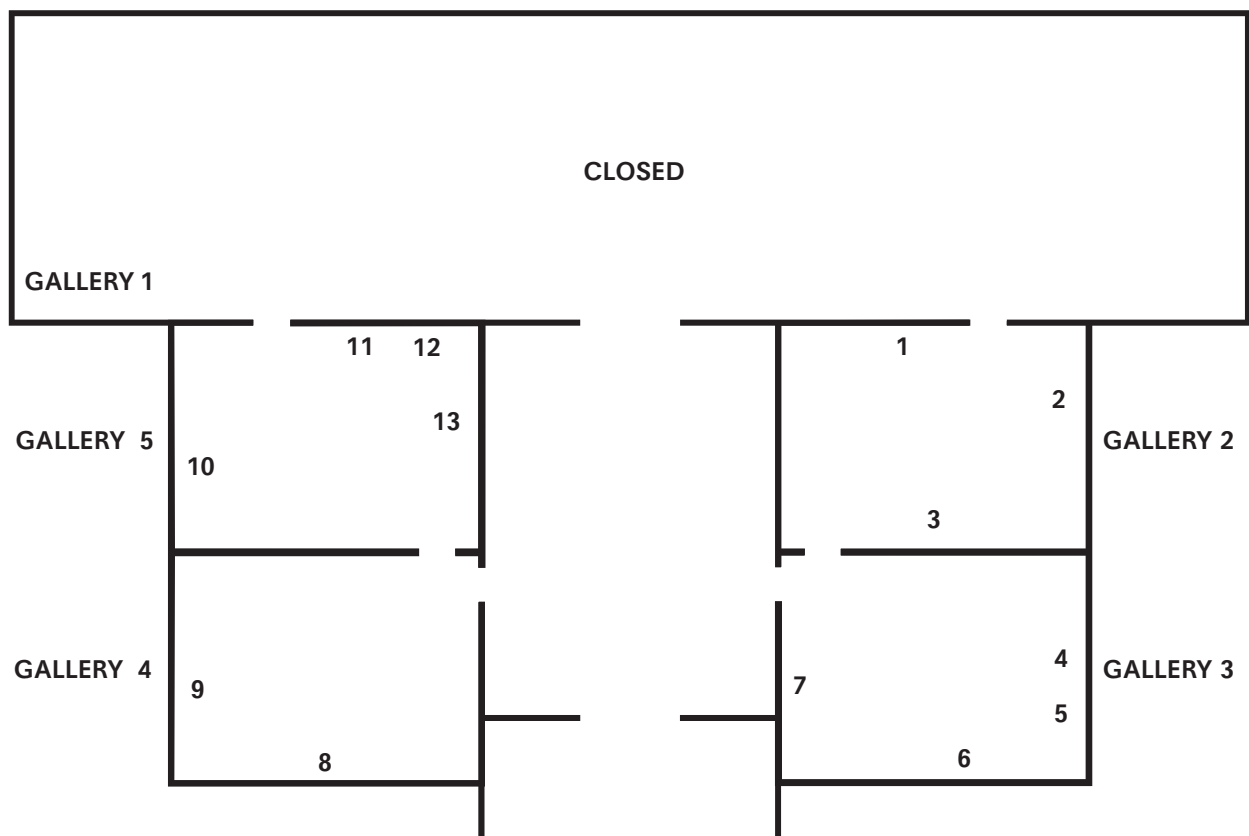
GALLERY 3

4. Mum's Jungle Curry (2024). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 183 x 145cm.

5. Dorset Garden (2024) Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 223 x 179cm.

6. Sleeping on the Floor (2024). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 233x 183cm.

7. A Clean Slate (2024). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 203 x 163cm.

GALLERY 4

8. Family Picnic at Stourhead (2024). Diptych. Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 233 x 177cm.

9. Eat Slowly, I've Been Cooking All Day (2024). Diptych. Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 213 x 343cm.

GALLERY 5

10. Surprise! Surgery! (2024). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 248 x 19cm.

11. Water Buffalos and Chickens (2023). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 124 x 93cm.

12. Childhood Home As A Spirit House (2024). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 208 x 173cm.

13. Sweet Tooth (2021). Painted warp, handwoven cotton on canvas. 172 x 142cm.

CLOSED

GALLERY 1

GALLERY 5

GALLERY 4

GALLERY 2

GALLERY 3

11   12

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