

CORVI-MORA

Dan Coopey

Satellites

7th March – 17th April 2025

Opening: Thursday 6th March, 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

Tommaso Corvi-Mora is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by British artist Dan Coopey, his first at the gallery.

In the feudal middle ages tithes to the landowner were paid by the bushel – a full basket – but a basket ‘might be adjusted through wear, bulging, tricks of weaving, moisture, the thickness of the rim, and so on’, the anthropologist James C Scott notes, allowing for chicanery on both sides, but also pointing to the woven object as lying at the intersection between the body, labour and civic society.

Dan Coopey’s work traces how weaving lies at the heart of the modern world: the bed rock for architecture; a prototype of ceramics; a tool for the hunter-gatherer and the agricultural farmer alike; a founding object for measurement, a unit to pay taxes; an object of capitalism and commerce. The painter’s woven canvas, stretched and stitched round the wooden frame, takes its structural cues from the weaver too.

These new works are the first the artist has made outside the city, a shift reflected both in their material and mode of construction, the raw fibres proving harder to source further away from the networked supply chain and mass distribution economy that basketry itself helped usher in. Instead Coopey interlaced store-sourced fibre from his library of materials with additional thread and rope he knotted and twined himself from the surrounding rural environment; the irony of the situation reflecting the prevailing alienation from nature within extractivist capitalism.

Each sculpture will often take a month to complete and the weave becomes an extension of the artist’s body in this period; each twist and turn in the sculpture reflecting the back-and-forth of production. The artist never premeditates the form of the work, rather each sculpture emerges organically out of an intimate and intuitive process. Anni Albers wrote about giving the object a chance to design itself, and Coopey thinks of the objects he makes similarly: they make themselves. Indeed, he has learned that fighting against the prevailing direction of the weave rarely leads to successful results.

One group of works takes the stretcher of a painting as the starting point, presented as a series of hand woven and dyed ‘canvases’; while other sculptures return to Coopey’s ongoing invocation of the receptacle (one speculative theory narrates that basketry predates ceramics, the latter emerges through mud packed into the form); Pierrot (Autumn/Winter) contains an allusion to fashion; while further works trace the evolution of packaging from woven to the recent invention of cardboard. In this exhibition Coopey has been looking at folding too, creating his own textiles that might act as wrappers to boxes or frames, a thought that aligns with the idea of skin and the body; the body becoming part of the environment it inhabits.

The gallery is open to Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm.

For further information or photographic documentation please call 020 7840 9111 or email

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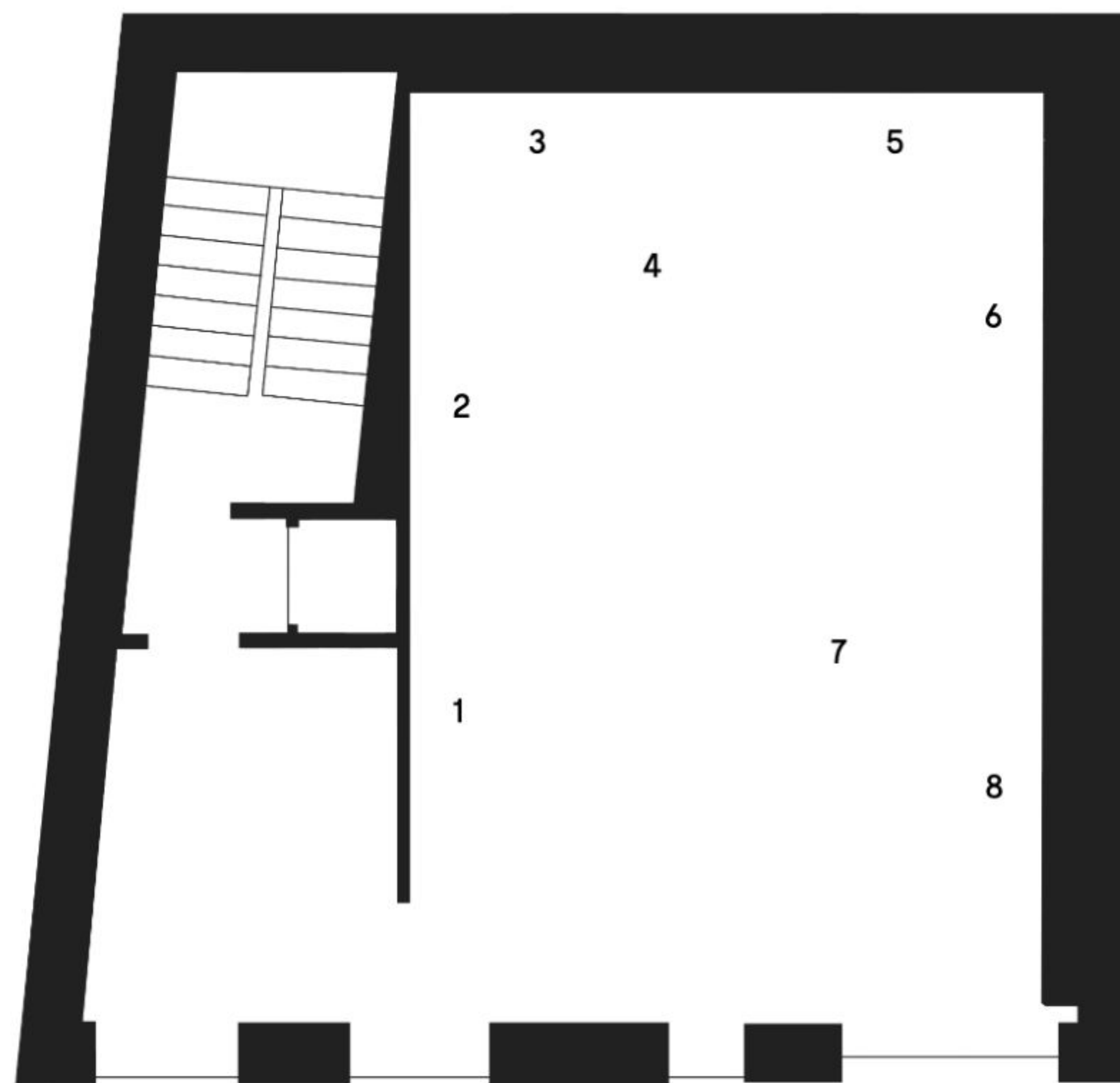
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Dan Coopey

Satellites

7 March – 17 April October 2025



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Pierrot (Autumn/Winter 2025)</i> , 2024
Sisal
60 x 60 x 42 cm | 5. <i>4 Dozen Minus 1</i> , 2025
Rush, wax coated cotton, plastic, eggshells
42 x 34 x 7 cm |
| 2. <i>Auricle</i> , 2025
Buriti
75 x 66 x 52 cm | 6. <i>Potgaston</i> , 2025
Water hyacinth, sisal, wooden crate
60 x 38 x 28 cm |
| 3. <i>Parcel</i> , 2024
Sisal, coir, earth pigments, wooden crates
99 x 32 x 12 cm | 7. <i>Beer Belly</i> , 2024
Hop twine, wooden stool
125 x 80 x 53 cm |
| 4. <i>Jacob</i> , 2024
Lily, sheep's wool
42 x 63 x 44 cm | 8. <i>Mammoth</i> , 2025
Jute, sisal
102 x 92 x 15 cm |

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Dan Coopey

Beer Belly

2024

Hop twine, wooden stool

125 x 80 x 53 cm, 49.2 x 31.4 x 20.8 inches

DC24-01

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Dan Coopey

Jacob

2024

Lily, sheep's wool

42 x 63 x 44 cm, 16.5 x 24.8 x 17.3 inches

DC24-02

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Dan Coopey

Parcel

2024

Sisal, coir, earth pigments, wooden crates

99 x 32 x 12 cm, 38.9 x 12.5 x 4.7 inches

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Dan Coopey

Pierrot (Autumn/Winter 2025)

2024

Sisal

60 x 60 x 42 cm, 23.6 x 23.6 x 16.5 inches

DC24-04

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Dan Coopey

Mammoth

2025

Jute, sisal

102 x 92 x 15 cm, 40.1 x 36.2 x 4.9 inches

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Potgaston

2025

Water hyacinth, sisal, wooden crate

60 x 38 x 28 cm, 23.6 x 14.9 x 11 inches

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Dan Coopey

4 Dozen Minus 1

2025

Rush, wax coated cotton, plastic, eggshells

42 x 34 x 7 cm, 16.5 x 13.3 x 2.7 inches

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Dan Coopey

Auricle

2025

Buriti

75 x 66 x 52 cm, 29.5 x 25.9 x 20.4 inches

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