

HA SMITH & SON



Conor Murgatyord

11.08 - 15.09.2021



Lychee One 荔枝一号

In his latest body of work Conor Murgatroyd explores the upheaval over the last year that everyone has experienced and the comfort we take in looking back at a similar time but without the permanence of digital culture. His images symbolise, through the carefully placed objects, the kind of togetherness we need today.

His aim is to display this wide range of topics as part of a cohesive narrative. The romantic notion of nostalgia has an unconscious and conscious effect on Murgatroyd's work. The everlasting selection of opposing themes and locations in his work has always been something he has focused on. Unconventional images that have never been placed together challenge the viewers eye in turn the minds visual interpretation of meaning in what they are seeing.

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Nana Looks In

2021

29 x 41cm

Humbrol Enamel on canvas

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Mr & Mrs Kent

2021

100 x 70cm

Humbrol Enamel on canvas

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Cane Corso
2020
80 x 60 cm
Humbrol Enamel on canvas



Having a Butchers

2021

100 x 70cm

Humbrol Enamel on canvas



The Bewildered Shopkeeper
2021
100 x 70 cm
Humbrol Enamel on canvas



Memories

2021

29 x 41cm

Humbrol Enamel on canvas

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Fragile and the Non Fragile

2021

41 x 51cm

Enamel on canvas

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Still life

2021

51 x 41cm

Humbrol Enamel on canvas

Originally from Bradford, Murgatroyd studied Fine art at Chelsea College of Arts in London and received Knights of the Table award in 2017. His practice is engaging and beguiling at the same time. He has an obsession with history which has a great influence on his work; understanding the past allows him to make sense of the tangled web of influences, events and emotions that make up the existential human experience.



There is a sensible naivety to his works that is juxtaposed by carefully considered references to his iconic inspirations throughout art history. He implores an underlying fun witty evolution in his paintings from an immediacy of colour and figuration, weaving through to carefully constructed allegorical still life and surrealism. Distinctively British in their appearance, his paintings also evoke a feeling of nostalgia. Objects and symbols that build our own histories, but recognisable by all in how we transfer our emotional memories onto objects, allowing them in some way to become otherworldly.

Murgatroyd captures the banality of everyday life in a way that is gracefully charming, but at the same time an uninterrupted lyrical contemporary view on the world. His creations compel us to view his life and ours with its raw untethered beauty, constructed in his own reality, but recognisable by all. He links together many references from social studies of human being placed in the reality of imagined environments.

His paintings act as a stage which brings together the myriad of characters and objects he has come into contact with; both imaged and lived. His work comprises of a wide range of topics, from his personal still life pieces to landscape paintings, which commonly feature captured images of the past. Structured compositions using this ethos are the framework of the works he creates.

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Education

2013 - 2016 Chelsea Collage of Art, Fine Art

2011 - 2013 Leeds Collage of Art, Art and Design

Exhibitions

2021 Sage Flowers, Solo Exhibition, Peckham

2021 History's Shadow Marks The Beginning, Grove Collective, London

2021 WINDOWS, Online Solo Exhibition

2021 Cave Canem, Online Group Exhibition, Eve Leibe Gallery

2020 Art in Context, Group Exhibition, China

2020 FREE WALL SPACE, Group Exhibition

2020 All Mouth Gallery, Group Exhibition

2019 Interiors, Solo Exhibition, Haggerston

2017 FBA Futures, Group Exhibition, Mall Galleries

2016 Chelsea College of Art, Degree Show, Group Exhibition

2014 High Trees, Group Exhibition, Battersea

Awards

2017 FBA Futures, Painting Award

2017 Knights of the Round Table, Painting Award

Press / Publications

2021 Art Spiel - History's Shadow Marks The Beginning

2021 Art Plugged - WINDOWS - Feature

2021 The Face - WINDOWS Feature

2020 The Face - British Art Special (Print Edition)

2020 Kickers Class of 50

2020 Its Nice That Feature

2020 The Face Magazine Feature

2020 English Grass Feature

2020 Dead Art Magazine

2019 Law Magazine x Adidas 'Young Painters'

2017 Knights of the Round Table Painting Award