



Handful Of Dust

Dan Howard–Birt

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PV 11 November 2021, 4–9pm

Handful of Dust is an exhibition of work by Dan Howard-Birt, which includes new paintings alongside an extensive library of *Ex Libris* watercolours - text paintings Dan began making 20 years ago as a student at RCA. Drawing from a multitude of pop cultural sources, each points to different narratives, characters and places. *Ex Libris* texts are also embedded within the stained panels of 'Lovers and Other Spectres', first shown at Trafalgar Avenue (London) in the group exhibition *Pleasure Scene*, before being broken down and returned to the studio to be over-painted and reassembled.

Conceived as an interstitial space, between the studio and the gallery, Trafalgar Avenue is an environment in which work can be tested and pushed and where ideas can be explored. The reworking of 'Lovers and Other Spectres' pays tribute to this and gives some insight into Dan's approach to painting as a process. The inaugural exhibition at TA MargATe brings Dan's paintings to a new audience in a different context, one that is perhaps closer to the domestic space for which they are intended.

The exhibition is also accompanied by a publication designed and produced by Folium, the first in an ongoing collaboration with Trafalgar Avenue, which includes essays by Dan Howard-Birt and Neil Annett and an interview with Michael Wilson, originally published in Quarrenden.

Dan studied at Goldsmiths and RCA. He makes paintings and exhibitions, each practice and process informing and questioning the other. Recent projects as an exhibiting painter include *Past-Oral* (Lower Hewood Farm, 2021), *Pleasure Scene* (Trafalgar Avenue, 2021), *Gathering* (Grays Wharf / Haarlem Artspace, 2021), *The Visitors* (Morley Gallery, 2021). Working with other painters' works his exhibitions include *Modern Love in Düsseldorf & London* (hobbypopMUSEUM, Düsseldorf, 2001), *I Cheer a Dead Man's Sweetheart: 21 Painters in Britain* (De La Warr Pavillion, 2016), *The Kiss or Poison Boyfriend or Jesus' Blood* (touring, 2017-18) and *Jeffery Camp: Some People Dream a Lot* (Kestle Barton, 2021). Recent books include *Nina Royle: Amalgam* (Folium/KPS, 2020) and *Jacqui Hallum: Workings and Showings* (Anomie/KPS, 2021). Dan is director of Kingsgate Workshops & Project Space, London and teaches and mentors at art schools including Turps, Camberwell and Central St Martins.

"Painting (verb and noun) is a strange thing in the world and painting is a strange thing within itself. The painting I like - that I aspire to - can't help but fall apart from within; it can't settle on a singular voice. I want to make paintings whose internal system fragments even as it searches for connectedness; whose essential hope colours its constant re-enacting of loss."

Dan Howard-Birt, 2021