

Oceans Apart

LOVERS LANE

30th April to 30th May 2021

Lovers Lane is an exhibition of paintings by fourteen artists whose work luxuriates in form, immediacy and the poetics of a Dionysian approach to painting. Depicting recognisable content, however loose that might be, this exhibition demonstrates an enthusiastic return to figuration, through flexible representation, poetic emblems and the sensual energy carried in the body and the land.

In the Chauvet Caves in Southern France a powerful connection is made between painting and person. The paintings in these caves speak to a deep human drive for figuration and the documentation of man's relationship with the world and its creatures – a truly archaic 'activity-presence'. We are there in the caves, with the people, making paintings about our sensory-lived-felt-dreamt-fluid place of being.

The paintings in this exhibition are descendants of these origins of expression and they embody the passionate drive of their forebears. And these painters imbue their surroundings – they permeate their environment, merging human with anything else that feels right. Here a Dionysian relationship is born, through wild abandon and with the desire for release taking the fore. Dionysus, the lingerer, the creator, the cultivator, the believer, the deceiver – these paintings are artefacts possessing symbolic language, constructed in dream-states.

And where there is Dionysus, there is Apollo. Wild nature coupled with restraint, such is this kind of painting. Wiping, slopping, scraping, etching. Rushing against the painterly device – the stretcher frame – in an assault on order. But necessary to make a painting. Without the enthusiastic symptoms of a frenzy; the bunched paint, brush hair, the dream mix, the racing line, thumb prints, oil bleeding through the back, we have no painting. These paintings are the bloody nose Dionysus gave Apollo. Lovers Lane is a saloon, post bar fight.

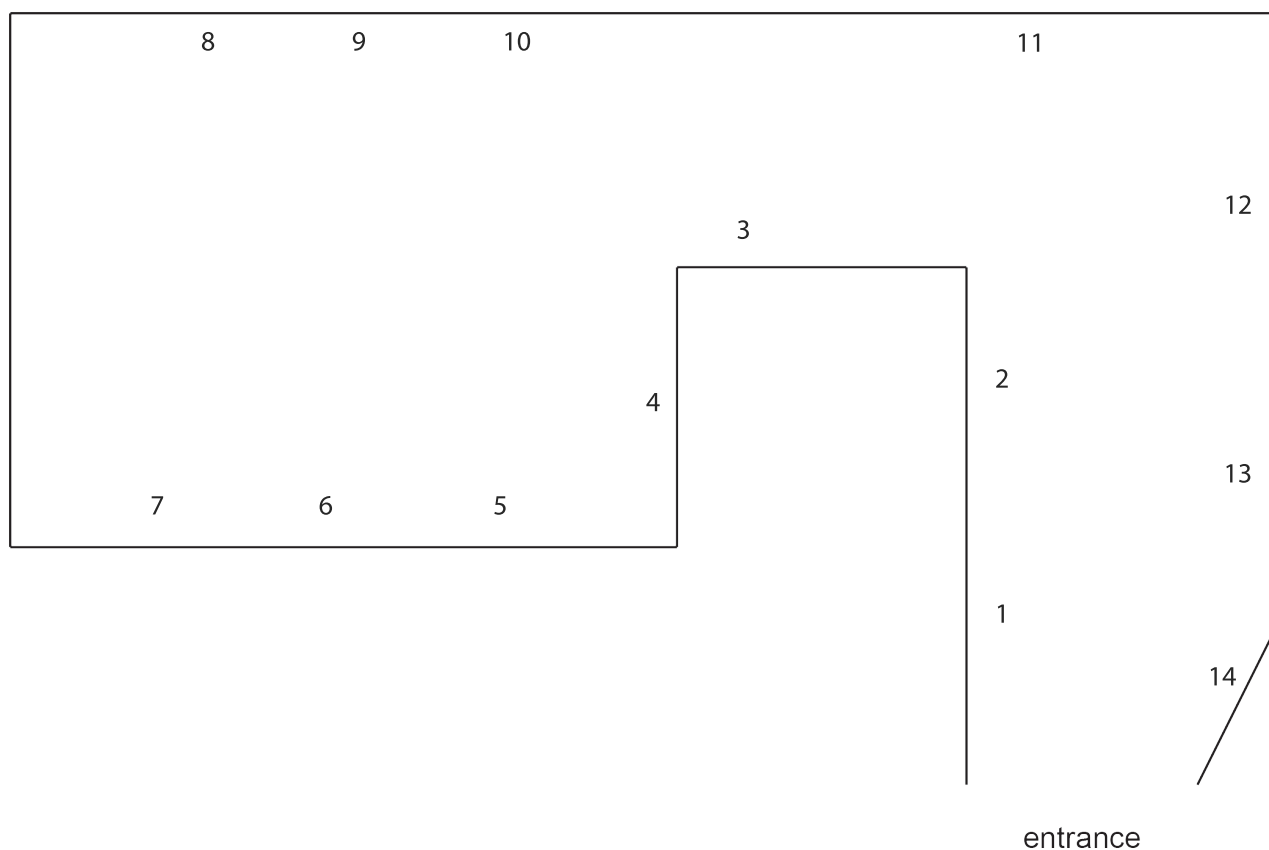
Exhibiting Artists:

Sophie Birch, Zac Bradley, Peter Burns, B. Chehayeb, Martyn Cross, Anna-Lise Horsley, Anna Ilesley, David R Newton, Alexander James Pollard, Jess Power, Ben Risk, Jake Russell, Joy Simpson, Julie-Ann Simpson

LOVERS LANE opens on Friday 30th April and continues to Sunday 30th May, 12-4pm daily, by appointment only - please email oceansapartgallery@gmail.com.

There will be a socially distanced Finissage on Friday 28th May, 6-9pm.

Map and Worklist



1. Joy Simpson, 'Mountain No.2' (2020), Oil on canvas, 31cm x 23cm
2. Ben Risk, 'Hive' (2018), Oil on hardback book cover, 32 x 25cm
3. Jess Power, 'Play Things (After Hours)' (2021), Oil on canvas, 30 x 40cm
4. Sophie Birch, 'Untitled' (2020), Oil on canvas, 61 x 77cm
5. Zac Bradley, 'Destiny's Sober Witness' (2021), Oil and wax on canvas, 34 x 39cm
6. David R Newton, 'Dion Darkness / The Light of Other Days' (2021), Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 25cm
7. Julie-Ann Simpson, 'Moth Speech' (2021), Oil and gouache on gesso panel, 41 x 51cm
8. Anna-Lise Horsley, 'Lascivious Flower' (2018), Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40cm
9. Anna Ilsley, 'Loungers' (2020), Oil on canvas, 50 x 40cm
10. Martyn Cross, 'Another Kind of Clay' (2020), Oil on canvas, 40 x 30cm
11. B. Chehayeb, 'Cocina Cochina' (2021), Oil on panel, 35 x 28cm
12. Jake Russell, 'Thing at Sea' (2021), Oil paint on wood panel, 29.8cm x 21cm
13. Alexander James Pollard, 'Sex Loaf' (2020), Oil on panel, 50 x 50cm
14. Peter Burns, 'Owl of Minerva' (2020), Oil on canvas, 20 x 20cm