

Tony Swain

Exhibition 19 April – 8 July 2012

An exhibition of new work by Irish-born artist Tony Swain, who trained at Glasgow School of Art and still lives and works in Glasgow. Swain, who was one of the artists representing Scotland in the 52nd Venice Biennale in 2007, is known for paintings depicting complex private worlds painted over newspaper pages, the newspaper providing both the physical ground and the conceptual starting point of each painting.

Swain paints landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes and interiors, frequented and constructed by mountains, sand dunes, meadows, trees, rocks, lighthouses, power stations, landmarks both natural and man-made, boats, bridges, buildings, houses, furniture and domestic objects. His imagery is often on a vast scale, encompassing huge vistas, but also collapses into intimacy. The marks he makes most usually organise themselves into representation, but sometimes remain as passages of painterly abstraction. A lot of the work generates the expectation of narrative, seeming to lead somewhere both conceptually and formally, yet it eschews this expectation, working instead on and with the picture plane. Fragments of the newspaper survive, transformed and transfigured by their inclusion in Swain's painted world.

This exhibition will consist entirely of new work, made specifically for The Fruitmarket Gallery.

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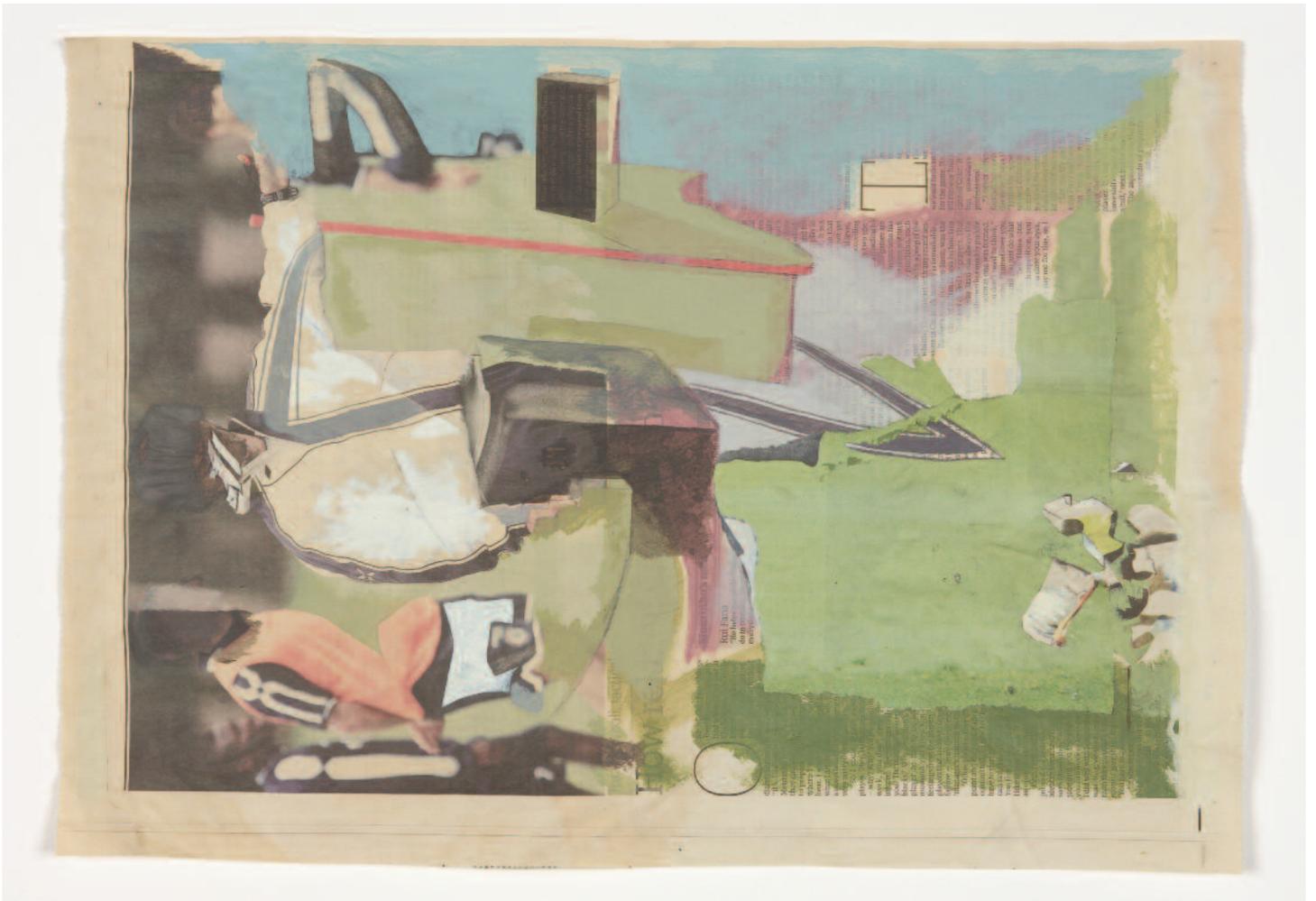
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The
Fruitmarket
Gallery



top. **Tony Swain** *The Liar's Several Attempts*, 2012
acrylic on pieced newspaper
Courtesy of The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd,
Glasgow

bottom. **Tony Swain** *Idle as totems*, 2012
acrylic on newspaper
Courtesy of The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd,
Glasgow

Notes to Editors

Tony Swain was born in 1967 in Lisburn, Northern Ireland. He lives and works in Glasgow.

A catalogue has been produced to accompany the exhibition, which includes essays by Fiona Bradley, Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery and writer and curator, Isla Leaver-Yap. There is also a conversation between Tony Swain and artist Karla Black. 112pp, fully illustrated.

The Fruitmarket Gallery aims to make art accessible without compromising art or underestimating audiences. It presents world-class, thought-provoking and challenging exhibitions of modern and contemporary art made by both

Scottish and international artists in an environment that is welcoming, engaging, informative and always free.

Tony Swain is represented by The Modern Institute, Glasgow and Herald St, London.

Talks

Collage and Painting: A Modern Partnership

Wednesday 2 May, 6.30pm. Free.

Professor Brandon Taylor (University of Southampton) examines relations between collage and painting at key moments in modern art, as well as the possibilities still open today.

Dreamtime Painting

Wednesday 16 May, 6.30pm. Free.

Katharine Stout (Curator, Contemporary Art, Tate Britain) explores the way in which Tony Swain creates paintings that have their roots in a world we recognise, but also possess an unreal quality.

Workshops

Art Session: Human Photoshop

Sunday 6 May, 5–7pm. Free. 20 places.

Take part in a surreal painting session led by artist Juliana Capes, working with photography, painting and the printed image to explore Tony Swain's work. This is the first in a series of four artist led workshops as part of Art Session, the Gallery's programme for 13–25 year olds.

Tours

In the Loop

Wednesday 23 May, 2–3pm. Free. 10 places.

A tour of the exhibition for visitors who are hard of hearing.

In the Frame

Wednesday 23 May, 6.30–8pm. Free. 10 places.

Artist Emily Learmont leads a tour of the exhibition, specifically designed for visually impaired visitors, including detailed descriptions of Tony Swain's work and practice.

Friday tour, 2pm every Friday. Free.

Drop in any Friday for an informal tour.