

YVES BERGER – DESTINATIONS - Paintings 2018

23 March – 19 April 2018

PRIVATE VIEW

Thursday 22 March 6 – 8 pm[View the Exhibition Catalogue on-line](#)*Window*, 2013-2017, Casein oil and lead on canvas, 130 x 81 cm

This exhibition of paintings by **Yves Berger** will be his third solo show at Art Space Gallery and brings together works completed in the past three years; a period that saw the death of his father, the author John Berger, with whom he was very close and with whom he collaborated on many projects. In describing the work Yves Berger comments that:

...death has always been present in my work. It became more visible when my mother was ill and then left. But now, with my father's passing it's been even more directly present. I'm conscious that these works are, amongst other things, those of a mourning.

Yves Berger (b. 1976) lives in the same remote, sparsely populated village in the Haute-Savoie region of France where he was born. He still has his studio in the hayloft of the home he grew up in. It is an isolated community where all are in close contact with the living surface of the earth and Berger devotes time to working the land along with his practice as a painter. And out of this melding of experiences, far removed from the 'art world', a unique, distinctly lyrical approach to figurative painting has evolved; an approach where human forms are used to explore ideas about personal relationships and the inner world of the psyche.

They are paintings that evolve slowly - the master-work of this exhibition, a polyptych of 5 huge panels, took 10 years to complete – as Berger brings to his practice the idea that a painting starts as a seed and is nurtured through growth to maturity. From the early fragments of an image, often a body print made by wrapping the canvas around a painted body, the surface is worked and reworked on impulse as ideas suggest themselves. False trails and abandoned strategies are all part of the process as the image is forged; an image that is a meeting of the external world and a vision so strong that forms become distorted and transformed into a place on the edge of reality. There is usually the semblance of a figure, nude or scantily clothed, occupying a nebulous space. They are free of any narrative but there is an evident celebration of the human spirit with some feeling like meditations on loss and past associations while others suggesting revenants from another world.

Yves Berger trained at the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Genève (1995-2001) and was awarded the Prix Stravinsky for painting. He has travelled widely, exhibited in numerous European cities and has work in private collections worldwide.

A 22-page catalogue is available. View on line at: www.artspacegallery.co.uk