

HERMAN LOHE: NORDIC TALES

10 May - 5 July 2019

FIUMANO CLASE



Herman Lohe, *Nordic Tales*, 2018, oil on canvas, 150cm x 150cm

Nordic Tales, the first UK solo exhibition of works by Swedish artist Herman Lohe, opens at Fiumano Clase on the 10 May 2019. The exhibition will feature recently completed paintings by the artist as well as works which span the artist's creative career.

Lohe is a multidisciplinary artist who identifies nature as his primary muse. His often disconcerting yet serene landscapes invite the observer to ponder their relationship with the natural world and universe. Throughout his twenty-five years as a practicing artist he has continued to explore and variously employ "classical" painting, installations and video art.

Nordic Tales draws upon the Scandinavian nostalgia and 'noir' that is recognised in popular culture. Moving beyond this evocation of nostalgia reveals, however, the work of an artist who often surrounds himself with the landscapes he reveals to us. The exhibition's titular painting was begun in situ in Lohe's Swedish studio, following a long-established Scandinavian tradition of painting from nature in nature. Completion of the work followed in his UK studio – when Lohe had finalised the poetic depths of *Nordic Tales* which perhaps can only happen at a distance – fuelled by a certain sense of longing.

The artist describes his creative process as being "about constantly making decisions and having the view that each brush stroke is equally important. Every layer of paint and touch must have a nerve. The handling of the medium is just as important as the motives."

The video installation *Dies Irae* (which refers to a 13th century poem previously quoted by Sir Walter Scott and Oscar Wilde) allows Lohe to express the sensitivity of the natural environment through nature's own brush strokes. The video itself is pure, in allowing the landscape and its dawn awakening to speak for itself.



Herman Lohe, *Dies Irae* (still shot), 2017

Lohe's work is informed by a profound understanding of the relationship between humanity and nature. In his paintings we can trace an exploration of not only Nordic Tales but universal stories. Paintings and video works are imbued with an observation of lifecycles that are undeniably Nordic in their tones.

The emotional connection between nature and body is an important topic for Lohe. There is a symbiotic relationship between the viewer and the artist's chosen media, creating an experience of emotional exchange. Lohe believes in the positive impact of nature on people, and the power it has to heal body and mind. "We have probably all felt it when walking in a forest: or sitting by the sea," he says, "It has a calming effect that clears the mind."

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For further information, images & interview opportunities, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

Herman Lohe: Nordic Tales

10 May – 5 July 2019

Private view: 9 May 2019

Fiumano Clase

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21 Wren Street

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<https://www.fiumanoclase.com>

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Friday 12– 6pm

Saturday – 12– 4pm

Fiumano Clase is one of the most exciting contemporary galleries on the London scene. As well as hosting several exhibitions a year at their London gallery, Francesca Fiumano and Andrés Clase exhibit regularly at art fairs internationally: PULSE Miami, London Art Fair, Art Central Hong Kong and VOLTA New York and Basel. The central ethos of Fiumano Clase is to work collaboratively with artists, giving them the time, space and opportunity to develop their artistic practice unhindered by any commercial pressure.

Gallery Directors Francesca Fiumano, of Fiumano Projects, and Andrés Clase, of Orion Contemporary, made the decision to merge galleries and form Fiumano Clase in November 2017 after a number of successful collaborations, pooling over thirty years of combined knowledge and experience.

Given his Swedish origins, Andrés Clase is naturally drawn to the work of Scandinavian artists. Though, the outlook of the gallery remains global. Francesca and Andrés work with a number of artists internationally, embracing a range of different practices from painting and sculpture, to photography, installation, video and performance art.