

*On touch*  
J.A. Nicholls  
17 March – 9 April 2022

Bobinska Brownlee is delighted to present new work by J. A. Nicholls. These are paintings made in makeshift spaces during the early no-touch phase of the pandemic and, more recently, in the studio in covid's changing wake.

*"Sourced from photos on a phone, selves absorbed. Walking, working or simply being, solo or in company, they emerge in layers of line and colour. The palette is messy and the movement of the brush searching and uncertain. There are faces grounded timelessly, busy doing nothing but looking and being looked at. There are landscapes with nothing much to see but the figure or figures within. Roads and tracks are obliquely present and there is weather, changeable and undefined. Figures, or lives rather, are the focus and the paint feels its path towards them.*

*This body of work speaks of personal worlds, of desire, uncertainty and failure. Awkward and rough, the paint searches to and fro for a sense or touch of people absent and missed, settling here then there, upon uncertainty, disquiet, affection, intimacy. The paint pulses the presence of what's missing".*

J.A. Nicholls, March 2022

Nicholls studied painting at Chelsea College of Art and the Royal College, London. Selected exhibitions include *Between parts undone* with artists David Lock and Gavin Maughfling at Studio1.1, Shoreditch; *A Little Painting Show* at Dead Pigeon Gallery, Liverpool; *ODO2018* at Oriel Davies Gallery, Newtown; *The Performativity of Painting* at the Stephen Lawrence Gallery, Greenwich; the *Ruth Borchard Prize* at Piano Nobile; The Royal Academy of Arts *Summer Exhibition*; *Creative London*, at Space\_K, Gwacheon in Korea and *Jerwood Contemporary Painters*.

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BBNR gallery is an Islington space, founded by Monika Bobinska and Barbara Brownlee in 2021.

A stand-alone white cube spilling over into a domestic setting, it feels perfect for the times, with a welcoming social area for openings, plenty of room outdoors and a 'contactless' entrance to the gallery where covid restrictions might require this.

The flexibility of the space allows for all kinds of approaches, including film and performance.

For more information, please contact Monika Bobinska on 0786 606 3663 or via email on [info@bbnrgallery.com](mailto:info@bbnrgallery.com).

Gallery hours: Thurs-Sat 2-6pm or by appointment

Address: 38 Tower Court, 1a Canonbury Street, London N1 2US



*in person* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
30 x 30 x 2.2 cm £1500



*hefted* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
30 x 22 x 4.5 cm £1200



Larking acrylic on canvas, 2021  
62 x 62 x 3.6 cm £2200



*Heyday* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
40 x 30 x 2 cm £1600



*personal* acrylic on canvas 2021  
40 x 30 x 2 cm £1600



*in touch* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
30 x 30 x 4 cm £1500



*what is it now* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
30 x 30 x 3.5 cm £1200





*the feel of the thing* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
30 x 30 x 4.4 cm £2000



*Bare acrylic on canvas, 2021*  
40 x 30 x 1.5 cm £1600



*Solo* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
33 x 33 x 4 cm £1500



*some thing or other* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
40 x 30 x 1.8 cm £1600



*spate* acrylic on canvas, 2021  
30 x 40 x 2 cm £1600