

## Dig

23 October to 30 November 2024

An exhibition of paintings by Ralph Anderson.

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Ralph Anderson, *Llandudno Promenade*, 2024, acrylic on linen, 136cm x 105cm. Image courtesy of JGM Gallery.

**LONDON, 23 October, 2024** - JGM Gallery presents *Dig*, an exhibition of paintings by Glasgow-born artist, Ralph Anderson.

Anderson's use of a rotary drill to sand down layers of paint strikes a line of continuity between his early and current practice. The exhibition's title takes inspiration from this technique. The resulting scratches, inscriptions and hollows, which figuratively 'dig' through the surface of these paintings, are the artist's primary motifs in this exhibition.

Anderson refers to these works as Echo Paintings, a term used by Walter Sickert to describe a series he made late in his career, in which he would appropriate black and white illustrations from mid-Victorian journals, and then transform them into vibrant paintings. In *Dig*, Anderson takes a similar conceptual approach, copying landscapes that he produced in 2006 and 2007, the imagery and attitude of these earlier works resurfacing like echoes of the past. As this series developed, he began to incorporate photographs from everyday life, using this new technique to convey impressions of memory and time.

In archaeological terms, a 'dig' displaces layers of earth to uncover the remains of historic civilisations, and through this act, restore our cultural memory. In this sense, one digs when there is something to recover, but also when there is something to bury or dispose of. Anderson's process can be understood within this context, as a dialectic of both addition and subtraction. By excavating the strata of his paintings, as seen in the eroded finish of *Llandudno Promenade*, Anderson removes his earlier markings whilst creating a new image from their remains. His abrasive treatment distorts figures and architectural elements, perhaps suggesting an irreverence for the realist tradition. It is as though he considers this manner of representation to be a fragment from a gradually disintegrating past. Yet, by extracting figurative features from beneath the blotches and stains of paint, Anderson renews the relevance of the realist tradition, as would an archaeologist with the artefacts of an ancient civilisation.

Abstraction and more traditional genres, such as landscape, portraiture and still life, have an almost combative relationship in *Dig*, the former overlapping and disfiguring the others. As time passes, the matter of objects and bodies deteriorate, as does our memory of them. The paintings in *Dig* show Anderson to be working with an integrated understanding of this process, in which he simulates, through his abstractions, the appearance of threadbare fabric, a worn patina or other forms of natural decay. However, the reappearance of traditional genres in Anderson's paintings, uncovered through the 'digging' process, demonstrates their relevance to his artistic practice.

Jennifer Guerrini Maraldi (Director of JGM Gallery), says that "These works are the sum of many developments in Ralph's artistic practice, which I have had the privilege to observe over the years. I am confident that these Echo Paintings will solidify Ralph's place as an artist of true significance."

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For further information and press enquiries, please contact the gallery at [info@jgmgallery.com](mailto:info@jgmgallery.com) or + 44 (0) 207 228 6027.

### Opening Reception:

Wednesday, 23 October, 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
24 Howie Street,  
London SW11 4AY

## About the artist

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Dedicated to painting in all forms, Ralph Anderson brings together the transient qualities of light and the viscous nature of acrylic paint on a variety of surfaces, such as aluminum, plywood and woven linen. Often incorporating a graffiti aesthetic, Anderson brings his surrounding South London environment into play. Multiple layers of colour intersect in a vast breadth of media to form equally intricate and vibrant compositions. Seemingly painterly and yet inherently sculptural, Anderson toys with the boundaries of representation. His markings often exist on the precipice of writing, exploring the tension of legibility and illegibility and blurring the distinction between antinomies. As such, his work hovers between illusion and physical reality, investigating gesture, form and the drawn line, whilst also playing with the notions of representation and non-representation in art.

Anderson has exhibited extensively across the United Kingdom and Europe with two solo exhibitions at JGM Gallery, commissions for H Club, London, and an installation of work in Eurostar's Business Premiere Lounge at the Gare du Nord in Paris.

## About JGM Gallery

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JGM Gallery was founded in 2017 by Australian-born Jennifer Guerrini Maraldi, one of the United Kingdom's leading specialists in Indigenous Australian Art. Guerrini Maraldi has more than 20 years experience in collecting, dealing and promoting Indigenous artists from across Australia.

Through its exhibition programme, JGM Gallery sheds light on the art and history of First Nations artists, with a focus on the use of sacred processes and traditional techniques. The gallery seeks to counter the pervasive and misplaced perception that the art of First Nations Australians is homogenous. In the words of Guerrini Maraldi, "The styles of this movement's leading figures are as varied, complex and sophisticated as any in the Western Canon." As well as championing Indigenous artists, the gallery has a roster of Contemporary artists from Britain and elsewhere. These artists reflect the multifaceted nature of the Contemporary art scene and, since its inception, the gallery has promoted and placed their work in significant private and institutional collections.

Part of JGM Gallery's mission is to adequately contextualise the practices of the artists it represents. In alignment with this approach, it produces a variety of publications, with a focus on artist collaboration, editorial design, and scholarship. A commitment to publishing expands the gallery programme beyond its exhibitions - an ethos which fosters reflection and further conversation from our wider audience and community.

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# JGM GALLERY

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