

GRAHAM DEAN

HIDDEN PLACES

April 2024



Hidden Places, a solo show of new and recent work by Graham Dean will celebrate 50 years of exhibiting by the artist.

Born in Birkenhead in 1951 he made Brighton his home over 30 years ago.

His brimming CV shows an artist with a vast and varied career, with work in many public collections in the UK and around the world and whose collaborations with film makers musicians and writers stretch across all his 50 years of exhibiting.

An article for the Bridgeman Library last year highlighted a little of why he is so highly regarded.

“Graham Dean stands out in the contemporary art world. His influence extends globally, making him a significant figure for art enthusiasts, critics, and budding artists. The magic of his art is not just in the technical mastery, but also in the powerful narratives, that emanate from every stroke and hue. While many artists become synonymous with particular styles or methods, Dean set himself apart by pioneering an entirely new technique. This method, “reverse archaeology”, transformed the very nature of watercolour painting, creating a synergy between the deliberate action of the artist and the unpredictable actions of the medium. His choice of handmade Indian paper not only adds a unique texture to his work but also imbues it with an organic quality that contrasts with the meticulousness of his technique. Celebrated and revered in global art circles, Graham Dean’s work embodies the timeless power of art to evoke, inspire, and connect. “

And Dean himself wrote recently;

“I find that now I’m older I’m attracted to ambiguity, images which are difficult to pin down, ones that evade easy description. Ideas may start in one place and then veer off in unexpected directions no doubt due to my switch to watercolour on paper, an unforgiving and unpredictable medium

Works are often comprised of several sections – either rag paper from India or Arches paper. Each sheet is painted separately and then reassembled collage like by ripping tearing and finally gluing the painting together, its only then do I see the whole picture. I often think that the ideas behind the works are similarly ‘collage’ together from a variety of sources, there is rarely one concept. One of my heroes, Tarkovsky, the Russian filmmaker, said ‘he used ambiguity to convey meaning’. I get that.”

The exhibition of new work can be seen at the Regency Townhouse in Hove from the 17th to the 28th of April.

Contact the gallery for more information, high-res images, or a complete CV

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