

## Press Release

SEAN DAWSON: INSCAPES

**Opening:** Thursday, 6 March 2014, 6 – 8 pm

**Duration of Exhibition:** 7 – 29 March 2014

Fabian and Claude Walter are pleased to announce Sean Dawson's first one-person show at their gallery with a presentation that stages a dialogue between paintings from 2010 and a recent series of oils fresh from the artist's studio, that marks a turning point within his visual expression.

Sean Dawson has made a name for himself with intense abstract painting, expressing itself with expansive gestures, vibrant hues and cosmic spaces. Rather than achieve abstraction in the traditional sense by simplifying figurative representation and thus alienating it from its original meaning, the artist alienates what is familiar from the visually perceived world by distortion, fragmentation and decontextualisation. The representative elements no longer are specifically identifiable and simply register at the edge of the viewer's awareness.

What in recent years has appeared like lucid improvisation, however, with the individual brushstrokes delineating flowing movements across the canvas and exploring the seemingly three-dimensional space within it in different pulses and rhythms, has been minutely planned and carefully composed, very much like music. "Photographic abstractions," as Sean Dawson calls them, close-ups and unfocussed details from fashion magazines and architectural publications, inform both the underpainting and the curvilinear compositions acted out upon it. In a complex and minutely planned process of overpainting, cutting out, tracing and rubbing, these template photographs are gradually translated into painting. Dawson describes his works as creating "an altered visual reality, with image and form floating in an illusory plane and space."

In the new body of work presented here for the first time, Sean Dawson can be perceived to gradually move away from this carefully staged deconstruction of reality and to venture into the realm of a freer, more 'open' mode of painting, combining digital, structural and organic elements. This series, titled *Inscapes*, has evolved from an interaction with an album and a particular track of the same title by the experimental electronic musician Robert Logan. Both derived from field recordings the musician made inside a derelict factory in Hungary that is slowly being reclaimed by an engulfing forest. The track *Inscapes* incorporates traditional Turkish music, the sounds of clanging metal and diverse materials in the factory and interweaves and develops these elements to mark the changing environment and the passing of time. Dawson was fascinated by the acoustics of a place caught up in a process of mutation as, in this case, nature takes over a man-made structure. The resulting paintings represent possible new spaces evolving from the old while the brushwork emphasises the sound and the silence, the pitch and the rhythm of music.

Sean Dawson was born in London in 1964. He graduated from Central St. Martins College of Art & Design in 1993 and went on to the Royal College of Art to study for an MA in Painting, which he received in 1995. In 2004, the Arts Council, London, awarded him the Individual Visual Artists Award. Sean Dawson has exhibited internationally in museums and galleries, amongst others at the Kunstverein Ulm, at the Prague Triennial, the Essl Museum in Vienna and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. His works are to be found in the collections of a number of European and American museums and private collections.

For images, more information about the artist or available work, please feel free to contact the gallery.