

JAMES OWENS

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BIOGRAPHY

James Owens (b. 1995, Middlesbrough) is a painter based in south-east London. His work gathers past, present and imagined scenes to form new narratives, which operate in moments of liminality. In these works, plants creep, dance and communicate in hushed tones. They grow in unlikely settings, pushing up through cracks and stretching towards the sun. This world captures nature in its full capacity - toying in flux between splendid growth and brutal death. As a small flower tenderly blossoms, another wilts. A curling tendril soon becomes a parasite. The paintings tread gently upon this balance between strength and weakness, hope and doom. Figures may come together with closeness, but there is a sense that they are protecting each other from something. Similarly, wildflowers appear in glorious full bloom - or perhaps they are fighting against one another for survival.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2023

It's All Good, Setareh, Düsseldorf (Solo show)

The Moth and the Thunderclap, Stuart Shave Modern Art, London

2022

I Take What is Mine, Arusha Gallery, New York City

Dreaming of UFOs, Lychee One Gallery, London (Solo show)

Praxis, Arusha Gallery, London

2021

Unfair Weather, Lychee One Gallery, London

PPP on Paper, Painters Painting Paintings, online exhibition

Quiet Fire, Arusha Gallery, London (Solo show)

Bloodroot, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh (Duo show) with Mary Herbert

Spring Fling, All Mouth Gallery, London

What I See I Will Never Tell, Wilder Gallery, London

2020

Delphian Open Call, Delphian Gallery, online exhibition

Tender Kith, 155a Gallery, London

AWARDS

2018

Evening Standard Prize, National Gallery, London, shortlisted