

BLAIR MCLAUGHLIN

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BIOGRAPHY The winner of the Elizabeth Greenshields Grant (2017), the RSA John Kinross Scholarship (2016), the Dewar Art Award (2015), and a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art (MLitt Fine Art Practice), Blair McLaughlin shows a mature talent rarely evident in an artist so young.

Situated at the intersection of violence, politics and postmodernity, McLaughlin's paintings challenge one to question situated notions of shared space, civil society and time itself. This is work which perverts and reassembles art history, whether Gentileschi, Courbet or Caravaggio. Its tactile nature – boils of thick oil paint swell on the canvases of even the artists most serene subjects – distinctive of an impressionistic approach to reference and the visual arts canon.

McLaughlin's recent work further experiments in genre convention, synthesizing ever more art historical tropes. Though unmistakably a landscape, *Ascension* (2017) is dominated by figures: three horses, their riders in riot helmets and goggles, foreground the lightly painted ruins favoured by 18th century bucolics.

I'm Afraid (2017), referencing Botticelli's representation of the coming of spring, paints the onset of the Trump administration within the cyclical process of American democracy. The title, lifted from the placards raised in protest of the inauguration, speaks to the anxieties of voters on both ends of the political spectrum. The president's dark figure encroaches on the center of the scene – a fearful portent for both those who support him and those who denounce him.

Though McLaughlin describes himself as being 'analytically detached' from his work, it is clearly driven by his own emotion and intuition. In the lashings of heavy paint and the thundering motion of his subjects, McLaughlin's work is kinetic, disquieting and darkly intellectual.

EDUCATION **2016**
Glasgow School of Art, *MLitt Fine Art Practice, Drawing (Distinction)*

2012
École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Nantes Métropole, *Erasmus Exchange*

2014
Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, *BAHons in Fine Arts*

EXHIBITIONS **2019**
Le Triomphe de la République, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh

2018
Time Goes Backwards after Death, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh
VOLTA:NYC, Arusha Gallery Representation

2017
Solo Show, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh
Group Show, Erotica, Edinburgh
London Art Fair, London

2016
Arriving Stranger, Werkhuys, Zegistraat 13, 2140 Antwerp
MLitt Degree Show, Glasgow

**PRIZES, AWARDS,
AND RESIDENCIES**

2017

Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant
RSA John Kinross Travel Scholarship to Florence

2016

Locality Residency Antwerp, *Koninklijke Academie, Antwerp, Belgium*
Triangle Locality Residency Programme, *Brittany France*

2015

Dumfries House, Scotland- *Artist in Residence*
Dewar Art Award

2014

Longlisted for 2014 New Sensations Art Prize

2011-2012

École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Nantes Métropole, *Erasmus Exchange*