

Darren Waterston

Notes from the Air

Through October 3, 2020



Symphonic Landscape, 2020. Oil on wood panel, 59.5 x 71.5 inches

DC Moore Gallery is pleased to present ***Darren Waterston: Notes from the Air***, featuring all new paintings by Darren Waterston. The exhibition title is taken from a volume of selected late poems by John Ashbery, whose themes of nature, wonder, and experience continue to be an important influence on Waterston's work.

Waterston's paintings are a continuation of his uniquely descriptive approach to expressing states of consciousness, using the landscape as metaphor and poetic space. The works depict otherworldly environments - nature as a heady fever-dream, destabilized, and teeming with quiet activity. They are alluring and on the threshold of the recognizable and the fantastical.



Hymn no. 2, 2020. Oil on wood panel, 48 x 36 inches

Waterston asserts the ever-present Surrealist impulse, having looked closely at the work of Hercules Segers, Max Ernst, and Odilon Redon while developing these paintings last winter. He remarks of his process:

"I often start out constructing a painterly description of space and spatiality, which may include sky, clouds, rocky cliffs, a verdant glade, but with every descriptive execution there is always the counterpart of abstraction and playful distortion of what is being depicted. I love the interchange between the beautiful and the monstrous." -DW

This sublimity is further underscored by shifting perspectives, geological, voluptuous forms morphing diaphanously, and fluid layers of deep, saturated color. Waterston is especially interested in exploring how a profound sense of vastness can be achieved and expressed in smaller scale panels, on view for this exhibit.

Darren Waterston graduated with a BFA from the Otis Art Institute/Parsons, having previously studied at the Akademie der Künste and the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, both in Germany. In 2020, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London opened *Darren Waterston's Filthy Lucre: Whistler's Peacock Room Reimagined*, a detailed and decadent interpretation of James Abbott McNeill Whistler's famed Peacock Room, a sumptuous 19th-century interior.

Filthy Lucre was created by the artist in collaboration with MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts. His previous solo exhibition, *Uncertain Beauty* at MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts (2014-2015), ran concurrently with the exhibition that featured *Filthy Lucre* at Freer | Sackler Museum at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (2015-2017).

Waterston's paintings are included in numerous permanent collections including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; New York Public Library, New York City; The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles; Seattle Art Museum, Seattle; and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The artist lives in New York City.

This exhibition runs concurrently with *Valerie Jaudon: Prepositions*.

DC Moore Gallery specializes in contemporary and twentieth-century art. The gallery is open by appointment only Tuesday through Thursday from 11am-5pm. For more information, photographs, or to arrange a viewing please call 212-247-2111 or email Sabeena Khosla at skhosla@dcmooregallery.com.