

ALEX DORDOY

SUMMERS' EGO Oct 18 – Nov 17
Keizersgracht 241

Opening: October 18th, 2018 from 5 pm until 8 pm

GRIMM is pleased to announce *Summers' Ego*, an exhibition of new paintings by Alex Dordoy at our Keizersgracht location in Amsterdam. This is the artist's third solo exhibition with the gallery and his fifth solo presentation in Amsterdam.

Alex Dordoy creates images that question the mechanisms of visual attraction. The artist uses advertisements from the 1920s and 1930s as source material which he strips down and re-contextualizes through the manipulation of pictures and text. The romanticism of the images he chooses is contrasted by the vibrant, unnatural colors he gives his subject matter. An aura of romanticism and nostalgia delicately persists, underpinned by the painter's precise, graphic rendering.

The way we experience time and how it is represented are carefully considered in this body of work. Dordoy strives to create an awareness of passing time in the *Ego* paintings using variations of hues that suggest changing seasons or liminal times of day. What's more, appropriated materials are reworked so that the resulting pictures disassociate from any particular era. By emptying the works of 'natural' signifiers of time they exist apart from our normal experience, as if they are trapped in an eternal moment.

Dordoy has suggested that his paintings represent iterations of a singular concept, or rather, they are one painting that he has expanded across different canvases. There is a deliberate absence in the spaces depicted that demands the viewer's attention. Confronted with his expansive landscapes, it seems as though one could step into their vast color fields. This is translated into a starkness that surrounds the forms within smaller works and which also beckons our external subjectivity.

In the *Ego* colorways, the text stands in for the human form, whereas in the smaller works, images can easily stand in for a phrase or word. In the former the word *Ego*, lodged in the landscape, binds with the vista in a way that feels consequential yet open to interpretation. *The Helper* and *Europe(s)* both contain specific symbolism that speaks to a humanist lineage tinged with the surreal.



Alex Dordoy | *Autumns' Ego* | 2018 | Acrylic on canvas, 200 x 140 cm | 78^{3/4} x 55^{1/8} in

About the artist

Alex Dordoy (b.1985 in Newcastle, UK) received his BFA from the Glasgow School of Art (UK) in 2007 and completed the residency program at De Ateliers, Amsterdam (NL) in 2009. Recent exhibitions include *The Moss is Dreaming*, a solo presentation at Blain|Southern in London (UK), and *From Svalbard Soil*, at The Modern Institute, Glasgow (UK), both in 2017; *Model T*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow (UK), 2015, *Sleepwalker*, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague (NL) and *Persistencebeatsresistance* at Inverleith House in Edinburgh (UK) in 2014.

He has also participated in the following group exhibitions; *Doodle & Disegno* at Blain|Southern, Berlin (DE), 2018, *Future Eaters*, Monash University Museum of Art, Caulfield East (AU), 2017, *Use/User/Used*, Zabłudowicz Collection, London (UK), and *Crab Walk*, Northern Gallery for Contemporary art, Sunderland (UK), 2016.

His work can be found in the Zabłudowicz Collection, New York (US); The Ekard Collection, Wassenaar (NL); and the Chadha Art Collection, Amsterdam (NL).

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests, please contact the gallery manager Jorien de Vries: press@grimmgallery.com +31 (0)20 6752465

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Alex Dordy | *Summers' Ego* | 2018 | installation rendering

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