

ALEX DORDOY

RUIN IS RUNE GRIMM 202 Bowery, New York
March 06 – April 25, 2020

Opening: Friday March 6th, 6-8pm

GRIMM is proud to announce *Ruin is Rune*, Alex Dordoy's (1985, Newcastle, UK) first solo exhibition in New York and his fourth solo exhibition with the gallery.

Presented at GRIMM New York are a new series of paintings by London-based artist Alex Dordoy. The title of the exhibition, *Ruin is Rune*, references ruins as a symbol of impermanence and an allegory for the fragile balance between humans and nature. The artist's paintings—ethereal and austere with an intimate focus on their subject matter—are digitally edited so that their source material takes on new symbolic meaning. Multiple renderings of a single image suggest the passage of time; as light and color change, playing poetically across the surface of forms, the feeling is one of unnatural stillness.

Landscape is an important component in Dordoy's paintings; it conveys themes of adventure, exoticism, nostalgia, and desire. However, these motifs are tinged with an ominous sensibility—as if we are presented with the remainders of a past from which we have been completely erased. The figure is conspicuously absent in each painting and instead swathes of color gradients occupy the canvas. This absence both beckons the viewer to picture themselves within these haunting spaces and elevates this perceived emptiness to become the subject matter itself.

Through this body of work Dordoy continues his investigation of a visual language rooted in imagery from early 20th century advertisements. Here the vernaculars of Art Deco and Object Poster design are combined with elements from Metaphysical and Post-digital strands of painting. Two works in particular, *Nature Nurture* and *Nurture Nature*, play with this layering of references. In these colorways a Japanese screen is translated to a printed poster, to JPG, and then returns to the physicality of painting, in order to serve as the wall of Plato's cave to an impossibly healthy water lily. Stylised and reproduced, the landscape and flower have almost had all the unruliness of nature distilled from their being; and yet they persist, even as the light begins to fade.



Alex Dordoy | *Ruin is Rune* | 2020

About the artist

Alex Dordoy (b. 1985 in Newcastle, UK) lives and works in London (UK). He 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 *Summer's Ego* at GRIMM Amsterdam (NL); *The Moss is Dreaming* at BlainSouthern in London (UK); *From Svalbard Soil* at The Modern Institute, Glasgow (UK); *Model T* at The Modern Institute, Glasgow (UK); *Sleepwalker*, Kunstmuseum, The Hague (NL) and *Persistence beats resistance* at Inverleith House in Edinburgh (UK). He has also participated in the following group exhibitions: *Doodle & Disegno* at BlainSouthern, Berlin (DE); *Future Eaters*, at the Monash University Museum of Art, Caulfield East (AU); *Use/User/Used*, Zabudowicz Collection, London (UK); *Crab Walk*, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland (UK); *THE NOING UV IT*, Bergen Kunsthall,

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests please contact the gallery in New York.
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Alex Dordoy | *Nature Nurture* | 2020

Bergen (NO); and *Office Space* at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (US).

Alex Dordoy's work can be found in many private collections, as well as the Zabłudowicz Collection, London (UK) and New York (US); Kunstmuseum, The Hague (NL); the EKARD Collection; Akzo Nobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL); Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag (NL); Start Museum, Shanghai (CN); and the KRC Collection, Voorschoten (NL) among many others.

About the gallery:

GRIMM represents thirty international artists. Since its establishment in 2005, it has been the gallery's mission to represent and support the work of emerging and mid-career artists. The gallery has two exhibition spaces in Amsterdam and one in New York.

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