

Jonathan Schofield Café Society

Serena Morton



*"The strongest guard is placed
at the gateway to nothing."*

- F. Scott Fitzgerald

*"Draw your pleasure, paint your pleasure,
and express your pleasure strongly."*

- Pierre Bonnard

*"Summer's not as long as it used to be,
everyday counts like crazy."*

- Frank Ocean

The series of paintings I have created for an exhibition at Serena Morton's gallery, this June 2022, are figurative works I have loosely titled Café Society.

This term evokes the great cafés in Paris and other international cities that became the focus in the Twentieth Century for people to meet, discuss ideas, gossip, look at other people, observe and be observed, be an actor or audience, a participant, or just a passer-by.

The café seems an ideal metaphor for the process of making paintings. We go to a place (a studio), begin to converse with our subjects, our materials, our thoughts, and our desire for communication. We sit and wait, we are served (sometimes), we are nourished, thirsts are quenched, appetites are sated, we have conversations, we leave, only to begin the process again another day.

Other paintings in this series are based on other spaces of pleasure, socialising or events: opening presents, picnics, visiting artists' studios, looking at people as they parade on the street enacting wordless dramas. These are all things I have been thinking about.

I collect hundreds of images - from films, the internet, my own photography. This archive becomes a shifting alphabet of elusive signifiers that I somehow hope to decode through composition and the process of painting. I try to leave this open, an idea for a painting and the characters within can sometimes change in the time it takes to leave home, get to the studio, and begin painting.

Jonathan Schofield, May 2022

BIOGRAPHY

Jonathan Schofield was born in Manchester, but moved to London where he has been based for over 25 years. Schofield did his Masters in (Fine Art) Painting at the Royal College of Art, South Kensington. Whilst at the Royal College, Schofield was taught by the likes of Peter Doig, John Stezaker, Sean Scully and Helen Chadwick. Schofield sold out his degree show and was awarded a distinction, with work entering permanent collections including the RCA's.

He went on to win a prestigious Scholarship to study for 6 weeks in Asilah, Morocco. Schofield also spent a Summer in New York and enjoyed painting Sabbaticals at the College Studios in Paris and Rome.

After the RCA Schofield had a hugely successful career as a Creative Director. In 2014 he started to paint again full time and his work quickly began to attract collectors and an audience through the democratisation of Social Media.

Jonathan's often large paintings have been acquired by collections in Copenhagen, Germany, the US and of course in London.



Cafe Society, 2022, Oil on Linen, 170 x 220cm, £11,000



Canopy, 2022, Oil on Linen, 160 x 190cm, £9,500



Good Boys Get Treats, 2022, Oil on Linen, 140 x 160cm, £8,500



Home Sickness, 2022, Oil on Linen, 160 x 190cm, £9,500



Music For Chameleons, 2022, Oil on Linen, 150 x 180cm, £9,500



Roller Skating into Bohemia, 2022, Oil on Linen, 160 x 190cm, £9,500



Starting Him Early, 2022, Oil on Linen, 190 x 180cm, £10,000



The Mute Swan, 2022, Oil on Linen, 150 x 180cm, £9,000



The Pleasure of Solitary Dining, 2022, Oil on Linen, 150 x 180cm, £9,000



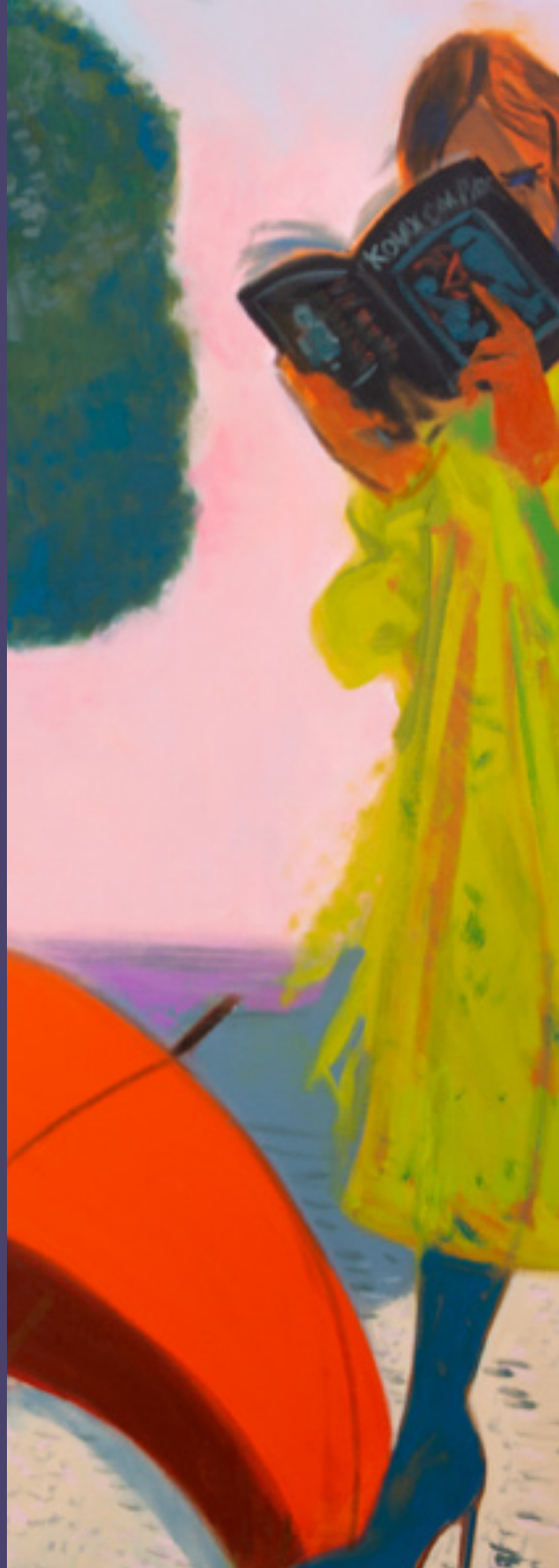
The Postgraduate, 2022, Oil on Linen, 150 x 200cm, £10,000



The Present (take the box), 2022, Oil on Linen, 160 x 190cm, £9,500

343 Ladbroke Grove
London W10 6HA

info@serenamorton.com
serenamorton.com



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