

RUPERT SHRIVE
'MYSTERIOUS ARRANGEMENT'



Arrangement No. 1 (Gendarme), 2017, oil on linen, 92 x 73 cm

12th MAY - 23rd JUNE 2017

PRIVATE VIEW - 11th MAY 2017 - 6-9pm

Serena Morton

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RUPERT SHRIVE - 'MYSTERIOUS ARRANGEMENT'

Serena Morton is pleased to present new work by Rupert Shrive. Entitled 'Mysterious arrangement' - a phrase taken from Joseph Conrad's 1899 novel 'Heart of darkness', about an existential journey, undertaken by steamboat up the Congo, during the colonial era.

Using the novel as a starting point, Shrive has created a series of haunting paintings that explore diversity and identity in a rapidly changing world order. Referencing 19th century imperialism, the works illuminate our voracious appetite for ever rarer resources, at the expense of a diminishing tribal culture.

Still lifes as portraits, richly coloured and clear against backgrounds, they resemble Arcimboldo's heads but composed of contemporary flotsam - aluminium sheeting, mylar, electrical cables, outmoded mobile phones, polythene bags and binder twine - combined with torn fragments of paintings and drawings on paper - of western and African tribal art, wood and dried leaves. Shrive echoes the way in which the peoples of the Ethiopian Omo valley tribes, decorate themselves with whatever Mother Nature provides; flowers and leaves, mineral soils and feathers, with his serendipitous practice of including the objects and trinkets that litter his studio, in his work.



Having worked for many years transforming his work - by rearranging his paintings into collages or crushing them into sculptures, Shrive is now combining the two practices to build three dimensional pieces, from which he then paints observational two dimensional oil paintings - a form of portrait from still life. This elaborate way of working not only provides a rich exchange of ideas but also completes the circle - from painting and drawing into collage and sculpture and then back again into painting.

Exhibited in the neighbouring gallery to the African photographs by George Rodger, a founder of Magnum photos, now celebrating their 70th anniversary - Shrive's work provides an inspiring and complimentary example of how ancient tribal arts continue to exert such fascination and relevancy, in this technologically saturated world.

Rupert Shrive was born in Norfolk (1965), trained at Norwich and St. Martins, he divides his time between the U.K, France and Spain. He has exhibited widely in Europe but also in Hong Kong. His installation at the Courtauld East Wing 2011 - 2012 was inspired by Goya's 'Sleep of Reason' and his monumental rendition of the seven deadly sins was exhibited in the Grand Palais Paris in 2010. Francis Bacon's biographer Michael Peppiatt included his interview with Rupert Shrive in his recent book 'Interviews with artists 1966 to 2012' under the 'School of London' section.

He is currently preparing his first solo museum show at the Maison de Balzac, Paris for 2018.

His work is held in many private collections round the world and this is his 5th solo show with Serena Morton.

"Que serions-nous sans le secours de ce qui n'existe pas ?" Paul Valéry, Petite lettre sur les mythes, 1928



Arrangement No. 2 (Mother of Pearl), 2017, oil on linen, 92 x 73 cm



Arrangement No. 3 (Long grass), 2017, oil on linen, 92 x 73 cm



Arrangement No. 5 (Stagborn), 2017, oil on linen, 116 x 89 cm

*"Shrive juggles fragmented memories into images,
testing the possibilities of painting anew"*

Michael Peppiatt from
'Interviews with artists 1966 - 2012'

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343 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 6HA

Nearest tube: Ladbroke Grove or Kensal Green

Opening hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 - 5pm
Saturday 11-4pm Closed Sunday & Monday

ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES

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