



Press Release
Platform for Emerging Arts II
Ancient Modern

30 April – 10 May 2014
(Private View 29th April 18:30 – 21:00)

Ancient/Modern

Leyden Gallery is proud to present the second of their Platform for Emerging Arts shows. Once again our curated exhibition features a select group of emerging and graduate artists; their work has been chosen by way of its engagement with our current theme, Ancient/Modern and highlights the work of an outstanding group of artists and their remarkable art.

Miranda Benzies

Arriving at her self-taught practice through the study of Art History, Miranda Benzies for Ancient/Modern deals with the response to her immediate environment, a trope, which is central to her practice. Having lived in both the city and the countryside she is fascinated by how these contrasting environments affect our identities. In the London Faces series of paintings she combines old and new architecture in the city to create 'cityscape portraits', or anthropomorphic landscapes. By rearranging bridges, moorings, tower blocks and a multitude of iconic buildings into a human form Benzies explores the identity of the urban dweller in London today.

Harry Tompkins

After graduating from UCA Canterbury in 2013 Harry Tompkins was selected to display his art work at the Platform Graduate Showcase Exhibition, at the Turner Contemporary in Margate.

'Out of Place, Out of Time' is the collective title of the three mixed medium canvases on show in 'Ancient/Modern'. They are a combination of traditional oil painting and photographic techniques, combining a unique and innovative process in a bold and contemporary way. The surreal compositions are originally constructed as collage, and the imagery is sourced from photographic archives before being transformed into large scale mixed medium canvases, using a combination of oil painting and darkroom photography. The photographic methods used provide a closer integration between collage and painting, and allow for the surreal depiction to be viewed as a single image, challenging our understanding of what we are seeing. This series creates a fictional narrative, recognisable to the beholder as we identify the figures, the landscapes and the events unfolding; yet they cannot be understood or identified with any particular time or place.

Louise Evans

Louise Evans graduated from Wimbledon College of Art, BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting in 2012. Her work has been exhibited in London and in the Netherlands since 2011. Louise has had work shown at The Barbican London in 2013. Her work has received recognition in being awarded Runner-up prize for Debut Contemporary 'Artist of Tomorrow' and the Runner-up Hans Brinker Painting Prize in Amsterdam; both awards were given in 2013. Louise Evans is an abstract painter, making paintings about paint. Depicting their own painterly language, the paintings deal with the surface of the canvas. Paint projecting beyond the frame allows for them to become entities in themselves, looking outward rather than looking inward. The use of vivid, rich colours brings the paintings to life, aiming to create an optical resonance that is retained after the physical eye has left the canvas.

Enzo Marra

Shortlisted for the '100 painters of Tomorrow' Enzo Marra's work has also been featured in The Threadneedle Prize for three years and twice selected for the prestigious John Moore's Painting prize. His creative practise is concerned with the exploration and pictorial analysis of the art world via oil, ink and graphite applications over canvas and paper supports. He has been exploring the settings of the studio, the gallery, the auction house and the activities of observers to this world. Through the use of such subject matter on paper and canvas both are applied in a tonal reflective manner. His work on canvas, applied also with textural approximations, enlivens the whole support, bringing the pigment as well as the subject matter to life.