

Ibid Gallery, Los Angeles
670 S Anderson Street
Los Angeles, CA 90023, USA
+1 (323) 395 8914
la@ibidgallery.com

Ibid Gallery, London
27 Margaret Street
London W1W 8RY, UK
+44 (0) 207 637 8773
info@ibidgallery.com

www.ibidgallery.com

JĀNIS AVOTIŅŠ (b.1981, Latvia)

Jānis Avotiņš' canvases commonly depict figures immersed in stark architectural or natural surroundings. His protagonists wander through their monumental settings, seemingly oblivious to the viewer's gaze, almost expressionless or lost deep in thought, leaving the viewer uncertain as to their circumstances or their relationship to the people around them. Powerfully imbued with feelings of loss, melancholy and nostalgia, his paintings have previously been described as offering a view into the "fundamental solitude of human existence" and offer a unique interpretation of the Romantic and Humanist traditions.

Central to Avotiņš' technique is the way paint is applied in thin, sparse washes of pale, bleached colour overlaid with small alternating brushstrokes. Details and clues only faintly emerge. Whilst some of the artist's scenes mimic the look of old, Soviet-era photographs, others recall the contemporary appearance of his East European home town of Riga. Many further scenes seem to be part or wholly imagined; dream-like visions of the past, or slowly reconstructed memories of friends, places, events and situations.

Jānis Avotiņš was born in Latvia in 1981 and lives and works in Riga. Recent solo shows include *Janis Avotiņš*, Johnen Galerie, Berlin, DE, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, NL and Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, DE and Ibid Gallery, London, UK. Recent group shows include *Only here*, The Federal Republic of Germany's Contemporary Art Collection, Bonn, DE, *Gaiety is the most outstanding feature of the Soviet Union*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK, *Is It That He Does Not Seek The Truth, But Does Want To Influence?*, Riga Art Space, Riga, L Vilnius, LV, and *14th Vilnius Painting Triennial: False Recognition*, CAC, Vilnius, LT.