

Christopher Orr

The Inmost Light

April 22 – July 8, 2017

Ibid Gallery is pleased to present *The Inmost Light*, a solo exhibition of works by Scottish artist Christopher Orr. Orr's paintings carry effects of faded memory or foggy remembrance, similar to effects in the vintage photographs he sometimes uses as source material, only Orr paints the figures into otherworldly, futuristic environments. The title of the exhibition is borrowed from a short story written by Welsh writer Arthur Machen. It tells the story of a doctor who attempts to cure his sick wife with a powerful stone, only for things to go wrong. Written in 1923, the story takes place in Norwood and Crystal Palace, areas of south London where Orr lives and works.

The Inmost Light features a selection of Orr's paintings, watercolors, and drawings on paper. Orr's semi-abstract paintings of vast worlds, with their expansive landscapes and rich passages of moody hues evoke the sublime. Through his approach of deconstructing and merging various art historical styles into surrealistic compositions, Orr maintains his earthy palette whilst employing a technique of sparseness that pushes the boundaries of completeness, where brush marks are evident, pigment is thinly applied, and bare canvas peeks out from beneath scrape-backed pigment to create supernatural landscapes.

Orr's cast of characters pulled from vintage magazines, slides, and children's books populate his landscapes. This cast of a-historical characters, either Lilliputian or giant, often seem dreamlike in their juxtaposition with their baroque surroundings of roiling fog and mist. Yet rich swaths of paint hold everything in place where time and scale are upended.

Christopher Orr was born in Helensburgh, Scotland in 1967. He lives and works in London. Orr has participated in group exhibitions, including *Between the Late and Early*, The Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound, Edinburgh, UK; *No New Thing Under The Sun*, Royal Academy, London, UK; *The Front Room*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, US; *Don Quijote*, Witte de With, Rotterdam, NL; and *Ideal Worlds: Romanticism in Contemporary Art*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, DE. Recent solo shows include *Light Shining Darkly*, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel, CH; *Hauser and Wirth*, Zurich, CH.

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