

Falling without ever Landing

04.10.22 - 29.10.22

a solo show of work by
Lara Cobden

The title Falling without Ever Landing comes from a line in 'Love Song' by Devendra Banhart, from the album Ma. On Lara's studio playlist during 2020-21, whilst painting her swan paintings, the album touches on grief and joy, existential unease and dark humour and echoes ongoing ideas in Lara's paintings.

The timeless shift from end of summer days that drift into autumn and darkness that invite seasonal rituals, myths and folklore, fireside stories from the woods and riverside, bonfires, and fireworks, to carry us through dark nights of winter until spring. Drawn by the unsettling nature of seemingly bucolic scenes, Lara is intrigued by the residue of memory left in the landscape and its benevolent capacity to absorb and bear witness, and by the alchemy of paint and its facility to express emotion through intuitive choices of colour, composition and brushwork. It is this trace of experience and memory she is trying to capture and the essence of what her landscape paintings are about; the everyday seen through an alternate lens - the quiet unassuming nature of scenes where nothing is going on, but all feels out of kilter. A desire to capture the essence of experience - a fleeting moment, light and shadows, ephemeral and yet resilient in their presence, are what inspires her to paint.

Initially starting from a combination of photos, sketches and memories, an image evolves from multiple thin glazes layered with opaque shapes, flicks and dots of paint to reveal tangled branches and foliage. Lara strives to create landscapes wherein it balances between that of reality and dream, physical and ephemeral, and the play between them - seeing and being 'in-between' - an unreliable multi-layered truth.

LARA COBDEN

Lara Cobden (b.1971) is a painter living and working in Norwich, Norfolk. Lara graduated with a degree in Painting at Brighton University in 1996, and then spent 11 years in Ireland before relocating to East Anglia. Predominately a landscape painter, focusing on memory and sense of place, her work is a response to the natural world around her. She is a member of The Arborealists, a group of artists specialising in the art of trees, who exhibit widely across Europe. In 2019-20 Lara completed a year on the Turps Banana Correspondence Course, a highly regarded programme of one to one online mentoring. Her work has been exhibited in the UK and internationally and has been a recipient of a number of awards, including the Parker Harris Mentorship Prize at the 2018 Wells Arts Contemporary Art Awards, 2nd place in the 2019 Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize, the Chair's Purchase Prize in the 2019 ING Discerning Eye exhibition, and most recently a finalist in the 2020 John Moores Painting Prize, in the Walker Gallery, Liverpool.

SELECTED AWARDS

2020 John Moores Painting Prize - Finalist - Walker Gallery Liverpool
2020 Castlegate Painting Prize - Finalist - Castlegate House Gallery Cockermouth
2019 ING Discerning Eye - Chairman's Purchase Prize - Mall Galleries London
2019 Westmorland Landscape Prize - Exhibited Shortlist - Rheged Art Centre Cumbria
2019 2nd Prize Winner - Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize - Mall Galleries London
2018 Wells Arts Contemporary - Recipient of Parker Harris Mentoring Award
2017 ING Discerning Eye - Exhibited Shortlist - Mall Galleries London
2017 Recipient The Artist Editor's Choice Award - SWA Annual Summer Exhibition
2016 1st Prize winner - Sir John Hurt Art Prize Holt Festival Art Prize - Norfolk
2016 Society of Women Artists - Exhibited Shortlist - Mall Galleries London
2015 National Open Art Competition - Exhibited Shortlist - The Royal College of Art
2015 1st Prize winner - Paint Out Wells - En Plein Air Competition Norfolk
2015 The Painted World - Exhibited Shortlist - Saatchi Art Los Angeles

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