

Paul Housley, *Tied to the Cannon*

15 February - 14 March 2020

Björkholmen Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition with the British artist Paul Housley.

For his show at Björkholmen Gallery the Artist has produced a number of works which playfully reference and tackle the traditional themes, motifs and genres of the Cannon of Western art. The genres of landscape, still life's and portraiture are the staple of his work. But the boundaries of these genres are often blurred or stretched so that for example a winter landscape becomes something of a self portrait depicting the inner emotional life and psychology of the Artist.

In a work such as "*Going back to my Old School*" the Artist tackles and references the works of Goya and his depictions of the atrocities of war. In doing so Housley produces something almost like a landscape, with the Artist's own body being rendered limb by limb in a darkly comical pursuit of artistic knowledge - the "Old School" giving him a lesson he will never forget.

In "*The Old Painter*" the Artist is depicted as a battered Old Cannon, which may have used up all its firepower and as now rendered itself obsolete. This work also makes a sly nod to old chestnut of "Painting being Dead" - a spent form of art. Housley however sees painting has something very much alive and is here to proclaim and celebrate its "rude health".

In skilled and committed hands the substance of paint is still able to transfix, amuse and sometimes even shock those willing to give it the time of day.

Paul Housley (b. 1964) lives and works in London. He received his M.A. in painting from the Royal College of Art in London in 1995. Housley has shown widely across Europe, Canada and US. Recent solo exhibitions in Vancouver, Vienna, London, Berlin, Copenhagen and Palermo.

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