

GAZELLI ART HOUSE



© Derek Boshier, *Night (Island of Dreams)*, 2019

Derek Boshier

Night and Snow / Fragments: Contemporary Still Life

Private View: Thursday 3rd October 2019, 5–7pm

Exhibition: 4th October – 10th November, 2019

#DerekBoshier

Gazelli Art House presents Derek Boshier: *Night and Snow / Fragments: Contemporary Still Life*, the artist's second solo show with the gallery.

The exhibition consists of three bodies of work: the *Night and Snow* paintings, his latest drawings based on either a single source of imagery (a newspaper or a television channel) or real life (doctors waiting rooms and cinema foyers) and the third point of exploration: jacquard tapestry [1] which Boshier has worked with for the first time. This exciting selection of works reinstates the 82-year-old Boshier to the forefront of his career with works that are representative of his vision and stance today.

The *Night and Snow* paintings are set either at night or in the snow. Boshier's response to his own research into the subjects he was set to (re)introduce – fashion, gamers, religion, rock music and soccer. Having always had an interest in the sense of a place and how that impacts the on people present. Depicted in his earlier body of paintings *Otherwise Engaged* [2] or the installation *Journey / Israel Project*, the choice of snow and night setting came about from the uncertainty of its outcome. When describing the works, he quoted Goethe, "The greatest state that a person can achieve is astonishment".

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The title of the new drawings, *Fragments: Contemporary Still Life* marks the continuation of Boshier's earlier preoccupations. Aspects of duality, exploring the relationship of image to image and thus documenting common cultural imagery that confronts us daily. It is estimated that we are exposed to 5,000 images a day. "The relationship of image to image is fundamentally no different from colour theorist's colour matching in that when another colour is put next to it that colour changes," Boshier explains. "Advertisers couple totally unrelated images with each other to change and sell a narrative", Boshier continues. His early 1970s exhibition titled *Two About Duality*, showed the same image depicted in two different ways [3]. The new series of drawings rearrange narrative via fragmentation within two separate constructs: the source for one are newspaper, magazines and television channels (his favourite one being K Pop channel), for the other it is doctors waiting rooms and cinema foyers or from Boshier's travels (as with *London/ New York / LA Times* series).

"We are very excited to be showing Boshier's latest work, marking him as a contemporary artist with consistent points of exploration through the past seven decades", says Mila Askarova.

Notes to editors

1. Commissioned tapestry work of Boshier was first displayed at the Vita Art Centre in Ventura, California and later in MOSTYN, Wales.

2. Boshier's *Otherwise Engaged* series depicts large groups of people holding mobile phones displaying sexual, sport and mechanical images with no relationship to the landscapes the devices are pointed to.

3. Michael Compton – then a curator at the Tate Gallery – in his book published in 1970 (*Moments in Modern Art*) in the chapter on Pop Art talked about Boshier's 1961/62 paintings: [his]...painting shown at the *Young Contemporaries* exhibition present fragmented scraps of topical information in the style of transfers, cheap plastic toys, counters in games of pictorial diagrams or isotypes."

About

Gazelli Art House supports a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions to a diverse audience through global public projects and exhibition spaces in London and Baku. The gallery was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan, where it originally held exhibitions with local artists. Mila Askarova, Founding Director, opened a permanent space on Dover Street in 2012 following a series of conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London. The same year, Gazelli Art House launched its *Window Project*, a unique opportunity for MA and post-graduate students to expose a body of their work. Three times a year, the gallery offers an allocated space with street frontage as well as the windows of the first floor to display the works. In 2015, the gallery launched *Gazell.io*, a monthly online residency for digital artworks, and *Enter Through The Headset*, an annual VR show. The *Window Project*, *Gazell.io* and *Enter Through The Headset* highlight the gallery's on-going commitment to supporting artists across different mediums.

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