

The horse is very pleased to announce *Eternal Memory*, an exhibition of paintings by Irish resident, English painter Inigo Batterham. Curator James Moores brings together a group of Inigo's paintings that span a 40 year period: Inigo's last public showing of work was 27 years ago. The exhibition is accompanied by an essay by the art writer Neal Brown.

Painting for Inigo, although not a tirelessly unceasing task, is like eating or walking; it is practical and necessary. The paintings themselves represent significant characteristics of a highly developed sense of material, subject, form, and poetry. Inigo, like any accomplished painter, has a unique aura that spills from canvas to paper, across all of his work. He chooses to explore the world around him; stories, portraits and landscapes producing abstractions that take on the character of their subject through indirect, coherent accuracies that envelope that thing. The paintings represent a deep exploration of being. While playing with negative space and geometric forms, his paintings construct a Fibonaccian sense of this world we inhabit and the things, places and people that broadcast their essence to one another.

Over the past hundred years or perhaps since Malevich's Black Square, painting has become many things, flatness, depth, expression, objects, cinema, time. Throughout the development of painting one unarguable truth comes through: That to really be a truly accomplished painter you have to be recognizable. In that the great painters successfully stand away in their own world. Style is like sense or feeling. Inigo's meditational paintings have this ability, they are developed, constructing their own ontology, interconnected through a highly conceived, playful language, the brush and form producing his own reality. The paintings are mystical, in that they evoke a deep symbolism similar in essence to the paintings of Karl Yung or Hilma Klint.

Inigo's influence, however, ignores these connections, instead conversation orbits around the work of Goya and Duchamp. There is admiration for their humour, their subjects, as well as the artist's integration to their daily life. Inigo's commitment to painting over the past 27 years has given him a freedom for the work to construct itself. A love, a need to make, without the requirement of a career, gallery or interaction with the art world: The unobserved particles that make up the universe he puts onto a surface have been allowed to breathe, without practical boundaries. *Eternal Memory* is open until December 18th.

Founded in 2021 The Horse is a contemporary art space in Dublin 1 that seeks to provide a platform for emerging, experimental and underrepresented art practitioners. For more information on this show and programming at The Horse please email Matthew Wilkinson: mw@thehosedublin.xyz