

DOUBLE SWAN

CARL HICKEY

9 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER, 2025

The HORSE is fortunate to be presenting Carl Hickey's exhibition *Double Swan*. The show is a series of new paintings that collectively produce a portrait of Clondalkin; the neighbourhood Hickey calls home. Clondalkin is in the postal district of Dublin 22 and *Double Swan* takes its title from these digits.

Painting in oil and using traditional methods Hickey recreates the world around him. In Dublin he is known for his visceral paintings of street life, viral imagery, the extra ordinary and transgressive resistance against the Garda. His work evokes the Dublin of this time. He sees a poetry in the people and places around him, and deeply appreciates the real. The paintings are often loose but always considered and this gives them a quality of movement, impressionistic immediacy and a raw true honesty.

With *Double Swan* Hickey makes a subtle departure from the more explosive figurative situations he is known for. He presents us with an ode to his home - he has lived in Clondalkin since he was three. *The Hot Corner* is a freezing vista of the corner where all of the pilots burn out their cars after they have been used for purpose. The quiet scene scrutinises the remnants of these cars. In another work *The Goal a Bad Pilot Broke* we see a quiet playing field with a half hit goal post. These paintings contain the exhaust from the action, the stillness after what went down. These landscapes act as mis-en-scène upon which life in Clondalkin happens.

That is not to say the landscapes lack figures entirely; *Through the Gap* captures a sunset landscape, in the corner a figure pulls a wheelie on a dirt bike. Hickey's paintings portray a poetic resonance between classical impressionism and realism in contemporary life. *Neighbours and Nails* is a portrait of his mum having her nails done outside their home, this, like the other paintings are intimately connected to Hickey's life and we are privileged in that he allows us to see these details and the genesis of what inspires his practice as an artist.

Double Swan is open until November 1st

Carl Hickey (b. Dublin, 1998) is an artist who lives and works in Dublin, Ireland. Hickey graduated with a BA in Fine Art specialising in Painting from NCAD in 2022, where he received The Dean Residency Award for his graduate show. Since graduating he has gone on to have two solo shows "In-Between Stops" in Liberty Ink (2022) and "Everything and Nothing" with gallery, Atelier Now (2023). He has published a book From the Top Deck of the Bus with Driftwood Editions (2023) and has featured in multiple group shows including "In the Press" with Hypha Studios in London (2025). In 2025 He completed a residency with Cill Rialaig Arts in Co. Kerry, Ireland.

Founded in 2021 The Horse is an artist run contemporary art gallery in Dublin 1 that seeks to provide a platform for emerging, experimental and underrepresented art practitioners. For sales, viewings and programming in general, please email

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