

Joakim Allgulander
Exile on East Street: Solitude and Escapism
Opening Wednesday 4th November



Orange Cloud, oil on linen, 60 x 45 cm

Exile on East Street: Solitude and Escapism, a solo show by **Swedish artist Joakim Allgulander**, will open on the 4th November at Fiumano Clase. The exhibition includes works that were created shortly before, during and after the initial UK lockdown earlier in 2020, providing a unique insight into the way the global coronavirus pandemic has affected Allgulander, both as an artist and as an individual.

Allgulander's multidisciplinary practice embraces painting, sculpture, printmaking and installations. His constant practical enquiry and curiosity into the process of making came to an abrupt halt during lockdown. Like most of us, he was confined either to his studio or home and art supplies were almost impossible to come by so Allgulander used the materials he had on hand: oil paints and linen. Rather than being restrictive this situation was liberating, forcing him to experiment with an already familiar medium. Inquisitive by nature, Allgulander has always sought to push the limits of the possibilities a particular technique offers, the period of confinement presented the perfect opportunity to do just that.

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An initial sense of confusion and bewilderment at the world in which he found himself soon made way for clear focus and determination.

“When the works for Solitude and Escapism came to life, I decided to use a fixed size for the paintings, 60 x 45 cm. I started to paint clouds and skies as a sort of therapeutic activity. I didn’t use pre-existing images or paint au plein air, I just painted from my head, using different methods for applying or removing paint from the canvas. Each piece was painted as an individual, but they will be displayed as one large scale work, giving a sense of time and mood. I felt like I was in a strange but creative exile during this period”

Joakim Allgulander, October 2020

The most recent works in the exhibition also deal with the subject of nature. Here however, nature is given an almost reflective surface by using a combination of shimmering car lacquer and extremely matt materials such as dry colour pigments and flock. Through this practice Allgulander achieves a sense of absolute light versus total darkness. There is a certain relief quality in the work where silver is used in direct contrast to black. The colours used are not a direct reflection of those occurring in nature. Instead, Allgulander’s focus is on creating works with colours that more strongly convey the mood of the subject.

Joakim Allgulander is a Swedish painter who currently divides his time between studios in England and Italy. His work *Elephant’s Breath* is currently on view at the RA Summer (Winter) Exhibition ending 2nd January 2021; this being the second year in a row that Allgulander’s work has been selected. Allgulander was recently featured in ‘The Joy of Art’ by Caroline Schlam (2020). His work has been covered extensively in the media and is held in numerous public collections in Sweden as well private collections in the UK, US, Europe and Singapore.

Notes to editors

Joakim Allgulander

Exile on East Street: Solitude and Escapism

Private View: Wednesday 11th November 2pm – 8 pm

We look forward to welcoming you to the Private view of *Exile on East Street: Solitude and Escapism*. Due to current government guidelines we kindly request that you book a time slot for your visit. Please contact the gallery directly to book your time slot.

Exhibition dates:

Preview: Wednesday 4th November 2020

On-line: 12 November - 12 December 2020

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Covid-19:

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The gallery is operating with reduced opening hours and timed visiting slots to enable easy social distancing and avoid queues. Advance booking is recommended. Please contact us directly to book your visit.

We request that all visitors wear face coverings when visiting the gallery to protect our staff and others. Additionally, hand sanitiser will be placed at the entrance, and we ask all visitors to make use of this upon arrival.

Exhibition text provided email where further information will be accessible via your personal devices. Please note there will be no access to toilet facilities.

If you have any questions about any of these safety measures in place, please send us an email at info@fiumanoclase.com

We look forward to safely welcoming you back to Fiumano Clase.