



Press Release

## Leyden Gallery

Present

### Jake Wood-Evans

#### Darkness Visible



12<sup>th</sup> March – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (Private View 11<sup>th</sup> March 18:30 – 21:00)

***Darkness Visible*** celebrates a new body of work by the brilliant young artist Jake Wood-Evans. This sensational new collection of oil paintings is proudly presented by Leyden Gallery in this, the artist's first solo show.

Taking inspiration from the works of Baroque Old Masters such as Diego Velázquez, Sir Thomas Lawrence and George Stubbs, Wood-Evans' dramatic use of light, whilst echoing the sense of their 'Old Mastery', also unsettles it. Evoking faded memories and spectres of a past time, this collection of oil paintings depicts disintegrating and dissolving moments. His powerful use of light emerges from a loose and instinctive use of paint, where bold brush strokes, dripping oils and scored surfaces sit cheek by jowl with fine, delicate detail, luminous skin and intense, rich layers of colour. Eyes, heads or limbs are scraped away or deformed. Traces and marks remain visible in the paint as it is built up leaving the trail and record of those traces behind them. Classical colour palettes with warm, earthy colours are a relatively new feature in Wood-Evans' work, marking a divergence from the deep blues and purples of previous collections.

Speaking of his work Wood-Evans claims 'the paintings become intense labours of love. I enjoy learning everything I can from the images I'm working from. But I have to get to a point where I start taking risks. I have to get close to losing control and obliterating the whole thing - then something interesting can happen'. In so doing he creates resonant, distorted echoes and impressions of a past that is re-contextualised by the fading grandeur of history, giving the resulting work a distinctly contemporary feel.

Jake Wood-Evans graduated from Falmouth University with a BA Hons in Fine Art, winning the title of Free Range 'Most Promising Graduate'. A Royal Academy Scholarship to the Prado Museum in Madrid followed. Jake has exhibited in many shows across the UK, most recently at Opus, Redchurch Street Gallery and London Art Fair. *Darkness Visible* at Leyden Gallery is Jake's first solo exhibition.

For further information and images contact

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