

ANIMA MUNDI



Sam Lock, Studio 2023

PRESS CONTACT

Jamie Mills & Kyra Harris
mail@animamundigallery.com
+44 (0)1736 793121

PRESS RELEASE

Sam Lock *The Memory of What Comes Next*

EXHIBITION DATES: 27 April - 8 July 2023

WHERE: Anima Mundi, Street-an-Pol, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2DS

WEBSITE: www.animamundigallery.com

Anima Mundi is delighted to present 'The Memory of What Comes Next', Sam Lock's first solo exhibition at Anima Mundi, consisting of a body of new gestural and contemplative paintings, which oscillate between states of immutability and transience.

Sam Lock's considered and expressive, often large scale, abstract paintings embrace the principle that change is a process not an event. A meditation on the continual flow and movement both around us and within us inspires each gesture. They are not made with a system or fixed process but through an energy that embraces both change and chance, in a manner that is both organic and unscripted, following its own path until there is a balance between presence and absence. There are silences and hiding places that are both poetic and activating, and a physicality and immediacy, where his aim to 'submit' himself to the canvas, eliminates extraneous thought in order to guarantee a purity of response. A response arising through

*"Go where never before
No sooner there than there always No
matter where never before No sooner
there than there always"*

Samuel Beckett

concentration and intuition where thought and action, go hand-in-hand. This is what Lock refers to as the 'poetry of moments', of the spiritual nature of now becoming then, and how what started as waves of actions, becomes a forest of memory. Lock is interested in marks, resulting in paintings, that communicate both instantly and slowly - to slow down perception, and to create forms that don't reveal themselves fully, all at once, through a filling up and emptying of space and surface; traces and echoes exist in a palimpsest, a build-up of painted marks, layers and statements that conceal and reveal, where time becomes held in a concrete way and the painting achieves a physical weight and substance. These layers allow you to swim in and out of the painting, they lead back in time, retaining a mystery and dynamism of the moment rather than a recollection of a misty lost past.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sam Lock was born in London and now lives and works near Brighton with his studio in a converted industrial unit further up the coast. Lock studied at Edinburgh College of Art and Edinburgh University, graduating in 1997 with MA's in both Fine Art and Art History. During his training, he won a scholarship to travel to Rome, and explore the relationship between history, archaeology and the processes of painting, a preoccupation which still forms the conceptual basis that underpins his practice.

ARTIST STATEMENT

The present is everything, as it is where all of our actions exist, but it has no fixed form – instead shaping itself exactly in the non-existent space between the future and the past. This fleeting and liminal space between yesterday and tomorrow is what I try and grasp with the action of paint.

The shifting sands here can make this transient place feel unstable, but as Edoardo Chillada once said "of all concepts, isn't stability the most unnatural and contrary to life?". I find that to focus on this constant moment provides a stimulation of my awareness and my creativity.

All we have is an overlapping of what we hope or dream, all we have known and done, tied up in the constant flux of the now passing through us.

Memory is twofold at least, acting both as an archive of experience but it is also constructive – editing, adapting and connecting our beliefs, intentions, experiences and obligations across time. Our lives are punctuated by a palimpsest of memory traces, preserved episodes and encounters that we look back upon time and again; but the significance and interpretations of these traces shifts with us as we change with time, making memory fluid and a living part of us, rather than merely living in our past; it provides us with an archaeology of now.

There is a Silvia Plath line from her poem 'The Colossus' which reads "I will never get you put together entirely" – which I often use to underpin my paintings. I try to find the point in painting where the works are unstable in some way, with windows and fault lines that undermine them – somewhere before they are complete. Something always remains secret, forgotten, hidden or lost.

The works in this exhibition are connected together like areas on a map, the landscape changes but the search remains the same; a search for the poignancy of moments in the painted act. They are roads to nowhere, and yet anywhere too; the mind fills in the gaps.

There is a poignancy in any moment, it is always someone's first or last, significant in some way or insignificant after all; either way, moments pass through us or pass us by, a stream of something bigger than ourselves, stripping self-importance. Our memories attach us to these moments and we use them to identify ourselves, to recognise ourselves or to portray ourselves to others.

I am drawn more to a state of not knowing, to have questions rather than answers, to be lost rather than certain and to travel without destination. My paintings are a monument and marker to the ever present, present moment, helping to give a physicality to all that is fleeting.

Sam Lock, 2023

ABOUT ANIMA MUNDI

Anima Mundi was founded by Joseph Clarke, who has curated in excess of 100 exhibitions over a twenty year period, working with international artists in all media. The gallery is based in a former Christian Science reading rooms in St Ives, Cornwall which was converted in to a significant gallery space. The space is one of the largest outside of London which has helped to secure Anima Mundi's international reputation for representing the very best in Contemporary art. Since its creation, Anima Mundi has strived to offer its international collectors unique access to a diverse offering of contemporary art whilst supporting its artists through collaborations with museums and art centres around the world.

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IMAGE LIST



Outside the Box
mixed media on canvas, 200 x 200 cm



As an Arrow
mixed media on canvas, 200 X 200 cm



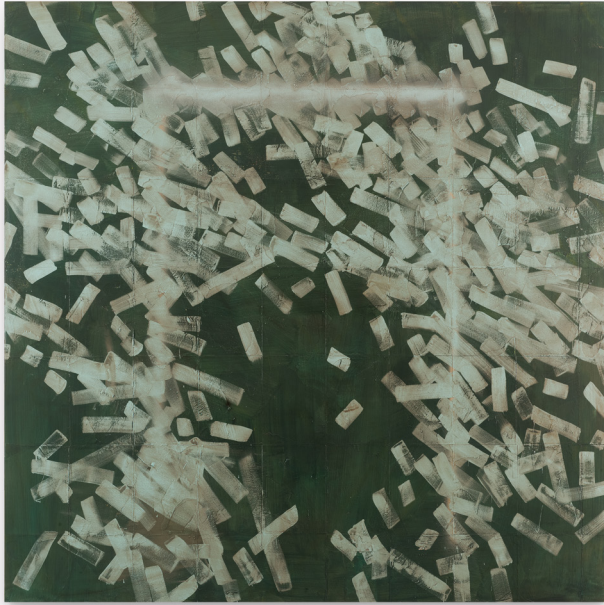
Causal Loop
mixed media on canvas, 160 x 160 cm



From Day to Day
mixed media on canvas, 150 x 160 cm



Why Did We Start
mixed media on canvas, 120 x 120 cm



Green Door

mixed media on canvas, 200 X 200 cm



Now and Then

mixed media on canvas, 120 x 120 cm



Casual Loop

mixed media on canvas, 160 x 160 cm



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