

## **Daniel Ablitt 'Seeking Light'**

**Solo Exhibition 3<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**While working and preparing for the exhibition, have any new themes or ideas developed in your work?**

*"One of the emerging themes of this exhibition is the draw of the city, full of life and diversions but combined with the peace and contemplation of being in the country surrounded by mountains, lakes and woodland."*

**You visited Cambodia, Dubai and Iceland among other countries recently; how have your travel experiences influenced your work? Any paintings in particular?**

*"'Still Water' and 'Birds over the Water' are particularly influenced by my visit to Iceland. It's such a calm and beautiful place. I love finding places that allow you time and space to breathe deeply and let yourself be absorbed into the space around you.*

*'City Lights' shows best I think the two elements of city and wilderness coming together. I find that I am drawn to both equally. The life and buzz of urban life, something always happening and swirling around you. This in contrast with the peace of the mountains and sea. Places that allow you to see yourself more clearly and in turn find peace. 'City Lights' is an attempt to combine these two environments.*

*The temple city of Angkor Wat is an incredible place and is just beginning to come into my work with 'Dove above the Temple' and 'By the Shore (Apricot sky)."*

**All the paintings in this body of work are works on board or panel; what is the reason for this preference?**

*"I like the freedom it gives me in how I approach the surface. With canvas I have to be a lot more careful. In many of the pieces I have scratched through with a blade or palette knife. With a panel and board I can rub back and work into the surface without fear of tearing or denting. I also like the variety found in the grain of the panels and the effect this has on the flow of the paint and the mark-making process."*

### **Have you always wanted to be an artist? Why did you choose painting?**

*"It was pretty inevitable that I would end up in a creative profession. Both my parents are potters and creativity is something we were surrounded with as we grew up."*

*Painting for me was a natural progression from drawing. Oil paint in particular as it allows the freedom to come back a few days or in some cases weeks, to change what you've done."*

### **Have your artistic influences changed or evolved over time?**

*"I look less towards other artists for influence and draw more upon experience and environment for inspiration."*

### **Do you have any other external influences? Music or literature?**

*"Music is very important in my process. I rarely paint in silence. This music can range from Bach cello suites to pop and techno. It's whatever allows me to focus on the work and lose myself in it."*

### **How do you see your role as an artist in a wider context, in society?**

*"It's difficult to place yourself into a category but the exploration of the human condition would fit best, the nature of self within the world in which we find ourselves. Within this, my simple aim is to uplift the spirit somehow. To pass on my experiences and some of the beauty around us."*

### **How do you work? Describe a typical day in the studio!**

*"Every day begins with coffee in the studio. It's a time to look at what I did the day before, to look at the work with fresh eyes. After that it's a case of going with the flow, not forcing something. One of the dangers with painting is overworking. Some paintings need to be left for months until I work on them again. For example city lights was started in November last year but not worked on again until March of this year."*

### **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

*"Painting although sometimes physical is pretty sedentary. I like my spare time to be quite physical with bouldering, tennis, swimming cycling...pretty much anything running around. Quite a lot of socializing too. My studio is in a complex of 40 other artists so there is usually something going on after work!"*

### **What are your ambitions for the future in terms of your career?**

*"I think just to keep developing and learning. Being able to paint full-time is a privilege and a joy."*

*I would like one day to have the space and opportunity to paint a very large piece. Something that would really challenge my practice."*