

Dan Parry Jones in conversation

'Escape' Summer Exhibition 2017

Sarah Wiseman Gallery

15th July – 26th August

SWG: Can you tell us a little about your background; what brought you to making art?

DPJ: 'Art was always my strongest subject at school and since then it's all I've wanted to do professionally. I taught for years which gave me a good insight into practices and I learned lots from talented teachers and also students. My degree was graphics, I also illustrated for a while which is why my work has a multi-disciplinary feel.'

SWG: What are your working processes – is there a typical day in the studio?

DPJ: 'I think about what I want to achieve on the way in [to the studio] but I generally know which pieces I'll be working on. I work on several at once which helps when paint needs to dry, plus I can take risks and not worry too much about destroying hours and hours spent on only one piece. I work best in the morning and just as I need to pack up. Infuriating sometimes!'

SWG: Which artists do you most identify with?

DPJ: 'Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, Antoni Tàpies, Ed Ruscha, Gerhart Richter, Anselm Kiefer.'

SWG: How do people react to your work – have there been any particularly memorable responses?

'I like to listen anonymously when people see my work. It gives you genuine feedback. It's lovely to hear enthusiastic praise but I'm thick skinned enough to hear when someone doesn't like it. I'm always interested in why. Just don't call me Banksy.'

SWG: Our exhibition is entitled 'Escape' – where do you go to escape it all?

'Seville, Porto, Marrakech most recently. I always get asked if my work is inspired by Cuba. Which really makes me want to go there...'