

WADDINGTON CUSTOT

Press Release

Ian Davenport

Colourscapes

20 September–8 November 2018

Private View: Wednesday 19 September, 6–8pm

Waddington Custot is pleased to present an exhibition of new paintings by British artist Ian Davenport. The works presented in the exhibition further extend Davenport's career-long investigation of chance, colour and the innate qualities of paint. Works on paper will be shown at the gallery for the first time, offering a multi-faceted view of Davenport's working process. The show in London coincides with a major new exhibition of Davenport's work at Dallas Contemporary, Texas, opening in September 2018.

The main gallery space will house Davenport's large-scale *Puddle Paintings*, which follow on from his 14-metre-wide installation at the 2017 Venice Biennale and introduce a sculptural element to the picture-plane. Using a schematic colour-palette, Davenport meticulously applies paint from a height, allowing it to ebb and flow in a single linear stroke, a process which is then repeated to form a landscape of colour. These new works, including 'Mirrored Place' (2017) and 'Olympia' (2018), also incorporate intricate and varying natural patterns as the paint pools at the bottom of the vertical panel in a physical extension of the painting.

Recently, Davenport has been interested in expanding his practice by examining the flow of paint in more detail and investigating how to manipulate liquid acrylic to create more compositional variety and complexity. Davenport has developed a method to pour a sheet of different colours together in one gesture, experimenting with the expansion and contraction of line.

Davenport's *Splat* works on paper resemble explosive fireworks, contrasting with these methodological and rhythmical poured bands. The artist applies paint in layers, obscuring and erasing each preceding mark to create energy and depth. The mark making is active and aggressive, with passages of openness. The fallout from the paint's impact as it hits the paper leaves residual traces and splinters of colour.

'We are thrilled to announce this exhibition of new works by Ian Davenport, an artist who the gallery has had the great honour of working closely with for thirty years. We are still awed by his intuitive, energetic, and ever-evolving approach to colour.'

Michelle Gower, Sales Director

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NOTES TO EDITORS

In 2017, Davenport was invited to produce a pavilion for Swatch for the 57th Venice Biennale. Davenport painted the large-scale installation 'Giardini Colourfall' (2017) and, to coincide with this, designed the limited-edition watch *Wide Acres of Time*. He has received numerous commissions for public installations, most notably from Southwark Council to produce 'Poured Lines: Southwark Street', a 48-metre-long painting which was completed in 2006 as part of the regeneration of Bankside. Davenport has explored different mediums through his commissions, such as a hand-painted series of porcelain plates in collaboration with Meissen, commissioned by South London Gallery in 2016. In November of the same year, Davenport designed a special edition bag for Christian Dior.

Ian Davenport received early recognition from his participation in *Freeze*, a student-curated exhibition in London Docklands in 1988, which exhibited the work of Goldsmiths' students who would later come to be loosely known as the YBAs (Young British Artists). Only two years after graduation, Davenport had his first solo exhibition at Waddington Galleries in 1990, and in the same year, his work was included in The British Art Show, touring to Leeds City Art Gallery and Hayward Gallery, London. He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 1991, and in 1999, was awarded the John Moores Painting Prize. Davenport has been the subject of numerous exhibitions worldwide, with solo museum shows at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, and Tate Liverpool. He is the subject of a major solo exhibition at Dallas Contemporary in September 2018.

His work is held in important museum collections throughout the world, including Tate, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; National Museum of Wales, Cardiff; Von der Heydt Museum, Wuppertal; and Dallas Museum of Art, Texas.

Title: *Ian Davenport: Colourscapes*
Address: Waddington Custot, 11 Cork Street, London W1S 3LT
Dates: 20 September–8 November 2018
Private View: Wednesday 19 September, 6–8pm
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm
Saturday: 10am to 4pm
Admission: Free
Travel: Piccadilly, Green Park or Bond Street Tube Station

IMAGE

Ian Davenport, *Mirrored Place*, 2017, acrylic on stainless steel mounted on aluminium panels (with floor piece) four panels, 118 1/8 x 157 1/2 in / 300 x 400 cm

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