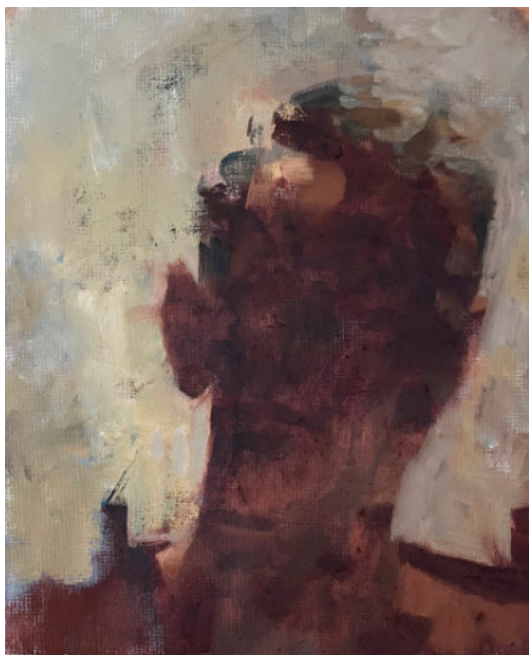




Storytelling

James Bland NEAC

tregony contemporary



Red Head Oil on Canvas laid on Panel, 31 x 26 cm.

tregonycontemporary[®]
british and international contemporary art

Storytelling

James Bland NEAC

Exhibition

4 - 31 May 2024

James Bland | Storytelling

James Bland's oil paintings are characterised by vivid depictions of light, unconventional colour harmonies, and enigmatic narratives. His work is inspired by cinema, dreams, literature, history, and the resonances of places, with influences ranging from Giotto to Klee, from Kossoff to De Chirico.

Paintings of recalled sensations take centre stage in Storytelling. Constructed from numerous studies, the pictures of schoolchildren carry echoes: shouts, the thud of a ball, grazed knees. The rhythmic interplay of figures is as much about the sound of a playground as its appearance. Elsewhere, painted dodgem cars suggest the mechanical noises, brightly-painted surfaces, and movement patterns associated with the excitement and danger of funfairs. The memory of a sighting of a beautiful puma is reconstructed in one painting that aims to balance likeness against keeping faith

with a child's-eye-view. In other works, memories of summer heatwaves in the back gardens of terraced houses in the East Marsh of Grimsby are brought to life using combinations of warm and cool, dark and bright.

Self-portraits are snapshots of autobiography, as well as a way of checking in with a painting practice that's constantly evolving, while the still life paintings, a more abstract meditation on the fall of light on bodies (such as the antique decoy duck) and the equally important spaces between, are imbued with the quality of time passing in the artist's studio. A different sense of time again is present in the two plein air paintings: Doña Ana, an Andalusian mountain painted in a frenzy as clouds moved over the valley, Grimsby Docks, once the biggest fishing port in the world and now almost empty.

James Bland | Storytelling

James was born in Grimsby in 1979. His childhood was spent in Grimsby's East Marsh and, for a time, the Scottish Highlands. In 1993, following a diagnosis of scoliosis, he had surgery to fuse part of his spine at Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham. In the 90s, he attended Caistor Grammar.

From the late 90s to the early 2000s he studied Fine Art, first at Grimsby College, then at Canterbury Christchurch University, where he



gained a first class BA, and MA. Between 2006 and 2007 he lived in Padua, Italy, where he worked as a teacher.

In 2013 he was shortlisted for the Ruth Borchard Prize and saw his work added to the Borchard Collection. Numerous prizes have followed, including first prize in the Winsor & Newton Oil Painters Awards (2013), the Doreen McIntosh Prize (2015), and the Val Harris Prize (2023).

School II

Oil on Canvas,

78 x 97 cm.





Grimsby

Oil on Canvas.

60 x 80 cm.



Grimsby Docks

Oil on Panel,

23 x 30 cm.



Kippers

Oil on Canvas,

50 x 55 cm.



Men At Sea

Oil on Panel,

30 x 40 cm.

Summer Gardens

Oil on Canvas,

78 x 97 cm.



Decoy I

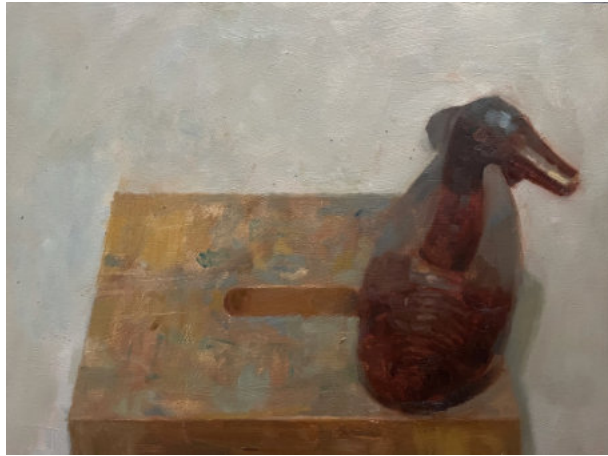
Oil on Panel,
30 x 40 cm.

Decoy II

Oil on Panel,
30 x 40 cm.

Decoy III

Oil on Panel,
30 x 40 cm.





Baby (after Khalil Raad)

Oil on Panel,

30 x 25cm.

Child And Bird

Oil on Canvas laid on Panel,

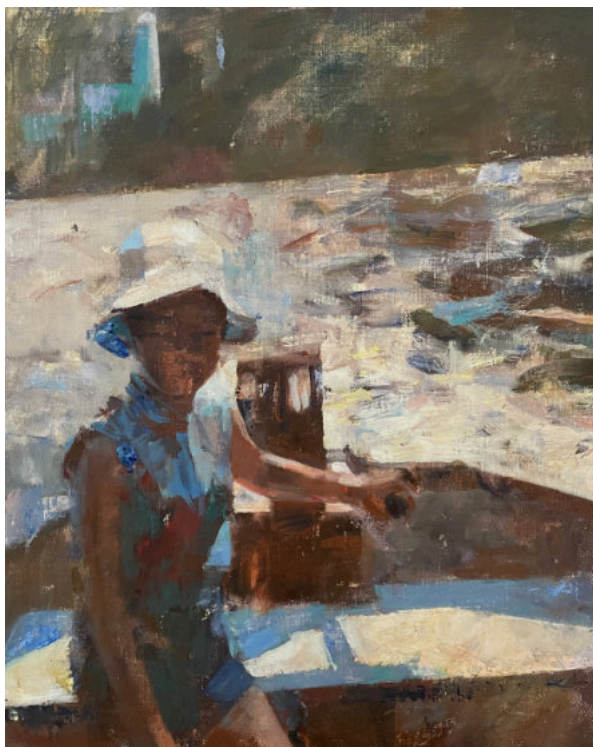
40 x 30 cm.

White Hat

Oil on Canvas laid on Panel,

50 x 40 cm.





Lovers In A Play

Oil on Canvas,

51 x 31 cm.

Self-Portrait

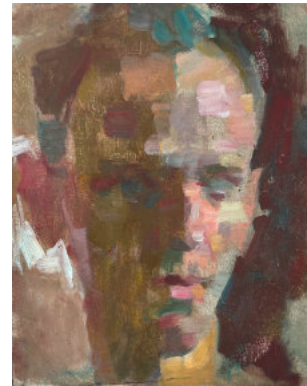
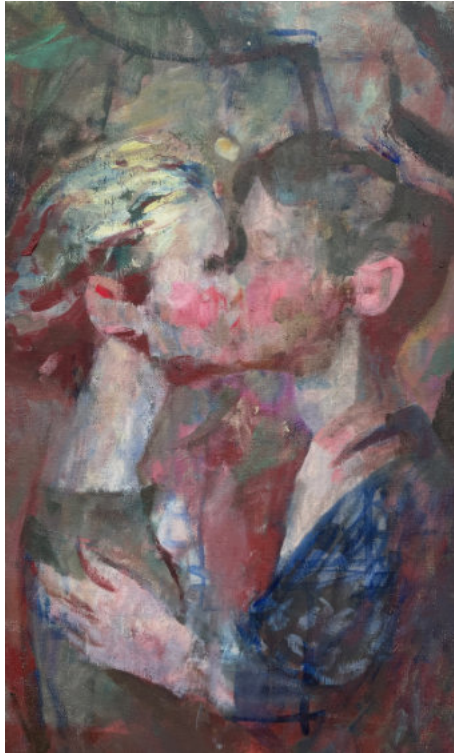
Oil on Panel,

30 x 25 cm.

Dodgems

Oil on Panel,

40 x 50 cm.





Head of CR

Oil on Panel,

15 x 12 cm.

Silent Star

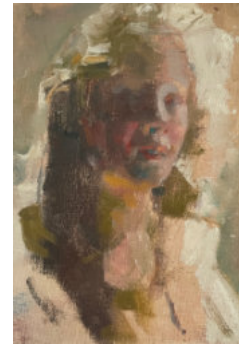
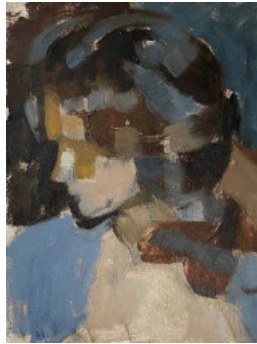
Oil on Canvas laid on Panel,

15 x 10 cm.

Harpree By A Wall

Oil on Canvas laid on Panel,

45 x 25 cm.





Tang Rider

Oil on Canvas laid on Panel,

33 x 31 cm.

Dalek Jug And Dried Roses

Oil on Canvas,

55 x 35 cm.

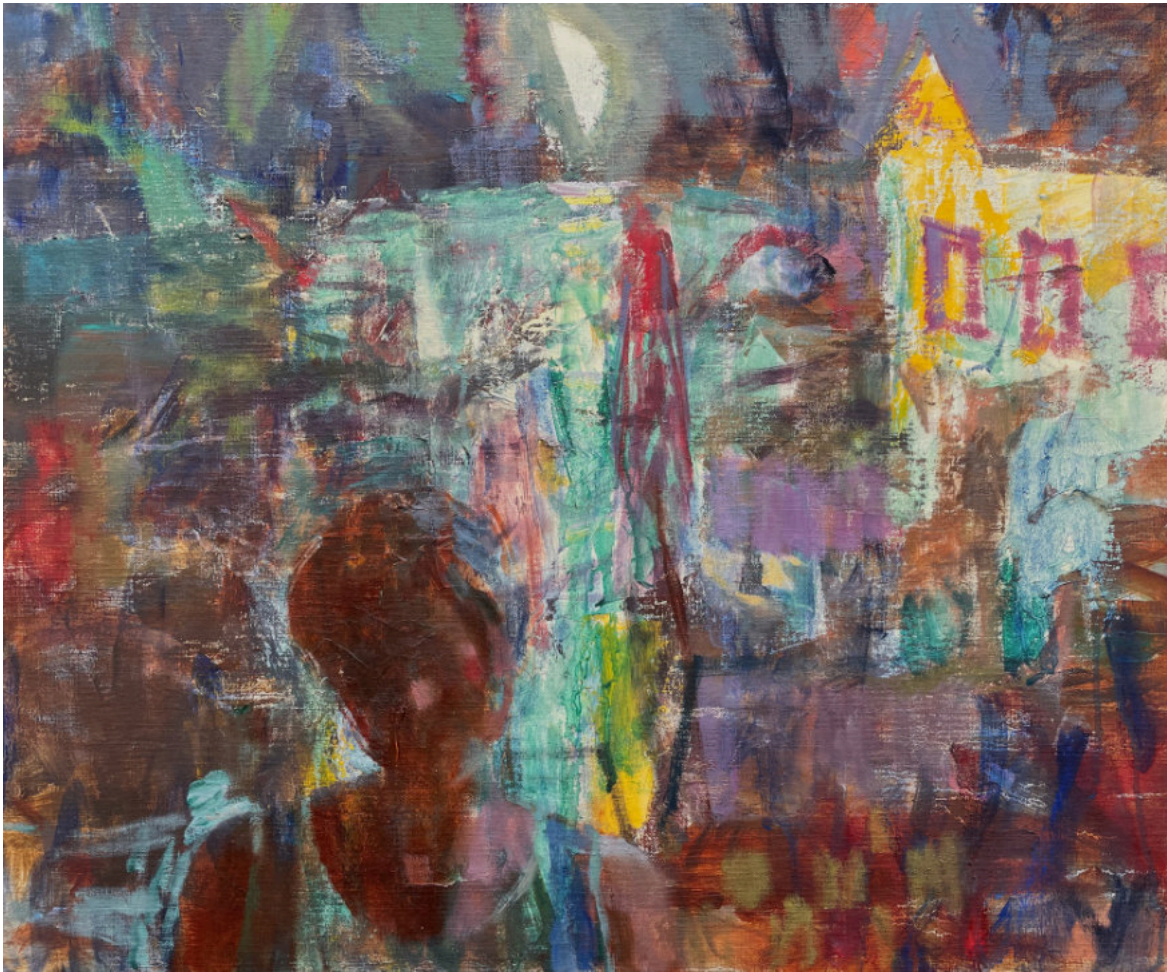




Miramare I

Oil on Canvas,

50 x 60 cm.





Puma

Oil on Canvas,

36 x 41 cm.

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Front Cover, 'Study for Summer Gardens', Oil on Canvas, 35 x 55 cm.

Back Cover, 'Doña Ana', Oil on Panel, 30 x 40 cm.



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Measurements are given in centimetres, height before width, and does not include frame dimensions.

Most frame dimensions are listed on our website. E&OE. Not all works featured in this publication will be part of Storytelling exhibition.

For further information do email through or visit the website.





www.tregonycontemporary.com