

Patrick Painter Inc.



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**JOHN NEWSOM
RINUS VAN DE VELDE**

July 2 – August 15, 2016

Opening Reception: July 2nd, 6 - 8pm

Patrick Painter is pleased to present its Summer exhibition featuring John Newsom and Rinus Van de Velde, paired for their ambition in scale and scope. Calling attention to rare works created early in their careers, this exhibition reveals vital moments in each artists' use of skilled draftsmanship to challenge conventions of pictorial space.

This exhibition will showcase two of Newsom's most nuanced and compelling paintings displaying active tensions between representational painting and hard-edged abstraction. In works such as *Courtly Gestures* (1998), teenager-sized birds and foliage are rendered with Audubon-grade care. Hard abstract spheres glide between leaves and birds, painted just as tenderly as the paintings' more nameable inhabitants, oddly seeming no less sentient. Upon closer view, surprise impasto incidents are stacked respectfully near hair-thin lines making it awesomely unclear which form is the fresher party.

Courtly Gestures is just one of its kind. Carefully selected for this exhibition from John Newsom's series titled 'The Crusade Paintings' (1997-1998), the full series consists of eight large-scale paintings depicting the overlapping of ancient, contemporary, and timeless motifs –combined. Magnifying the natural world, Newsom explores it as an undeniably gorgeous non-democracy where the abstract and the figurative act as double-agents playing both sides to stunning effect. These dualities allude at once to painting as a space that is both stable and transient, in-flux and at rest.

The artist states: “The timeless worldly subjects are the birds. The birds are timeless characters within the framework of the paintings. So we see these allegories of past, present and future unfold simultaneously in a grand pictorial manner. The atmosphere

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becomes somewhat of an anomaly, not a hybrid or pastiche, but an intrinsic and seamless space...” John Newsom lives and works in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Drawing together works from Rinus Van de Velde’s first solo show at Patrick Painter Inc., this exhibition’s three selections focus on the artists’ fictionalized version of himself and a fictional young writer, and friend, who has gone missing. The drawings, and descriptive titles present the artists’ fruitless attempt to locate his friend and his isolation as he draws out the contradictory evidence left behind by his disappearance.

Van de Velde’s narrative world focuses on the convergence of art historical precedent and a reinterpretation of the medium; one which takes on scale and form, presenting each piece as an object as well as an image. Concerned with anything but the natural, Van De Velde’s narratives belong to a planet where a changing but always subjective “I” is narrator supreme. In this reinterpretation, Van de Velde immerses himself in the space between systematic and unsystematic reality. The exploratory nature of these early works on view lends itself well to the marriage of narrative and figurative. Rinus Van De Velde lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium.

The exhibition opens Saturday July 2nd and will remain on view until August 15, 2016.

For further information please contact the gallery.