

PURE ROMANCE

ART AND THE ROMANTIC SENSIBILITY



Patrick Procktor, *Ego* (Eric Emerson, Gervase Griffiths, Ossie Clark), 1969, watercolour on paper, 62.9 x 101 cm. © The Patrick Procktor Estate.



Alessandro Raho, *Ben*, 2013, oil on canvas, 141 x 139 cm.
© Alessandro Raho. Courtesy of The Alison Jacques Gallery, London.

In paintings, photographs and works on paper dating from the 1920's to the present-day, this group show traces the development of a romantic sensibility, one that is rooted in a certain strand of Englishness. Its early manifestations are found in the art and literature of Hilliard, Milton, Blake and Palmer, and in the supernatural magic of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*. It finds inspiration in the conventions of theatre and the ballet, in classical form and mythology, and in visions of Arcadia. In the twentieth century it has been influenced also by the poetic fantasies of European surrealism, and the heightened artifice and glamour of Hollywood film. The work is often exemplified by painterly light and colour, and a lightness of touch both intimate and fragile.

Many of the artists in this show cast the figure within a light-filled space, in which the subject – and by extension the artist – is metaphorically transfigured. Certain works suggest the atmospherics of dream or reverie; of a longing for idyll or utopia, expressed in private, sometimes transgressive, language. The work has a quiet sense of drama that is the antithesis of the bombast associated with much contemporary art.

The show is comprised of the work of sixteen artists:
Cecil Beaton – Marc Camille Chaimowicz – John Deakin – Kaye Donachie – Derek Jarman – Silke Otto Knapp – Linder – Robert Medley – Elizabeth Peyton – Jack Pierson – – Patrick Procktor – Alessandro Raho – Snowdon – Pavel Tchelitchew – Keith Vaughan – Christopher Wood.

Pure Romance is set to be a remarkably beautiful and potent exhibition. It is curated by Dr Ian Massey (author of *Patrick Procktor: Art and Life*; co-author of *Keith Vaughan: The Mature Oils*).

AN EXHIBITION CURATED BY IAN MASSEY



Cecil Beaton: Rex Whistler, photographed at Cap Ferrat, 1927.
© The Cecil Beaton Studio Archive at Sotheby's.

A show entitled *Patrick Proctor: The Last Romantic* – also curated by Ian Massey, runs at Arts University Bournemouth, 14 January to 25 February 2016.

Further information on the AUB website:

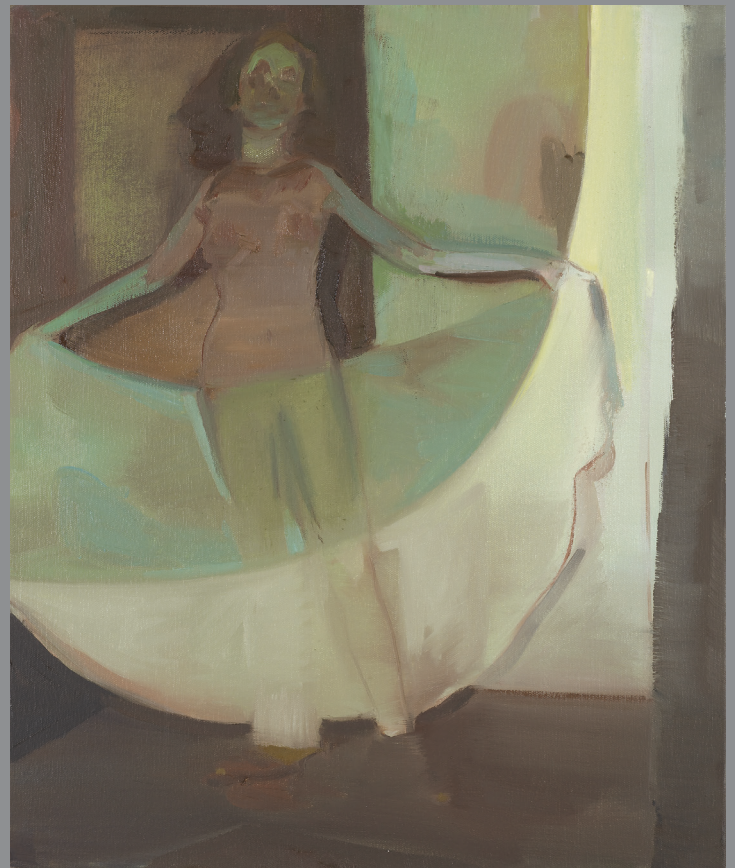
<http://aub.ac.uk/campus/thegallery/forthcoming-exhibitions/patrick-proctor-romantic>

Exhibition Pure Romance
Dates 2 – 27 February 2016
Private View 2 February 2016

Venue The Redfern Gallery
20 Cork Street
London W1S 3HL

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Kaye Donachie, *Anchored by day, drawn in at night*, 2010, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm.

© Kaye Donachie, courtesy Maureen Paley, London.