

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DEXTER DALWOOD: PROPAGANDA PAINTING**



**22 MARCH - 14 MAY 2016, HONG KONG  
PRIVATE VIEW: MONDAY, 21 MARCH 6 - 8 PM**

Simon Lee Gallery is proud to present an exhibition of new paintings by London-based artist Dexter Dalwood, his second exhibition with the gallery and first solo exhibition in Hong Kong.

This new series further develops Dalwood's ongoing investigation into the role of images and painting in the construction of history. The context of China has provided him with a rich history to draw upon in order to make wider cultural, economic and political associations and provocations in this new body of paintings.

Ghosts of painters, political figures and events that have shaped history haunt these paintings; Nixon's visit to China in 1972, Chairman Mao's infamous swim in the River Yangtze and the Greek national debt crisis are layered with references to iconic, historical paintings and artists from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Fake sunsets, post-punk album covers, propaganda posters, African sculptures and tourist memorabilia adjoin seemingly familiar sections of abstract and figurative paintings, screenprints and woodcuts.

Wit and playfulness are employed to seduce, engage and destabilise the viewer. Multiple planes occupy each painting centred by a key element within the frame - a coaster, a poster, a bowl, a pillar - an entry or exit point to another time, another space, another place, another people. Dalwood reminds us that if alternate realities can coexist within one image, then so too can they within our everyday experience and within history.

Dalwood constructs his paintings akin to how we construct memory, drawing together fragments of images to provoke wider unfolding associations, inviting us to consider how actions, events and representing images are interpreted. He invites us to reflect upon how we subjectively and collectively sample, frame, edit, crop and consume images in order to make sense of the world and act out our belief systems and mythologies. Dalwood implicates himself within this interrogation, as his own work is also revisited (*Mao's Study Remix*). His paintings convey the impossibility of ever truly being able to own or inhabit the past and question the power of painting to continue to reflect on these issues in an image obsessed, screen-based world.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Dexter Dalwood** (b. 1960) lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include *London Paintings*, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK; *Dexter Dalwood*, Kunsthau Centre PasquArt, Biel, Switzerland (2013); *Orientalism*, David Risley Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark (2012); *Dichter und Drogen*, Nolan Judin, Berlin, Germany (2011) and a major solo exhibition at Tate St Ives (2010), which toured to FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, France and CAC Malaga, Spain.

His work will be included in *The Painting Show*, CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania, (2016), travelling to BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium and Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, France, Presented by British Council Touring. Recent group exhibitions include *Faux Amis*, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK (2015); *Zabludowicz Collection: 20 Years*, Zabludowicz Collection, London, UK (2015); *Fighting History*, Tate Britain, London, UK (2015); *ICA Off-Site: Hong Kongese*, Duddel's presents, Hong Kong, China (2015); *Absence*, David Risley Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark (2015); *The Venice Syndrome – The Grandeur and Fall in the Art of Venice*, GI Holtegaard, Denmark (2014); *Not Being Attentive I Notice Everything: Robert Walser and the Visual Arts*, Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, (2014); *Le Corps de l'Absence*, FRAC Champagne Ardennes, Reims (2013); *Setting the Scene*, Tate Modern, London (2012) and Dublin Contemporary (2011).

He has work in numerous public collections, including: Tate, The British Council Collection and The Saatchi Gallery.

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact Ying Yue Li: [ying@simonleegallery.com](mailto:ying@simonleegallery.com)

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