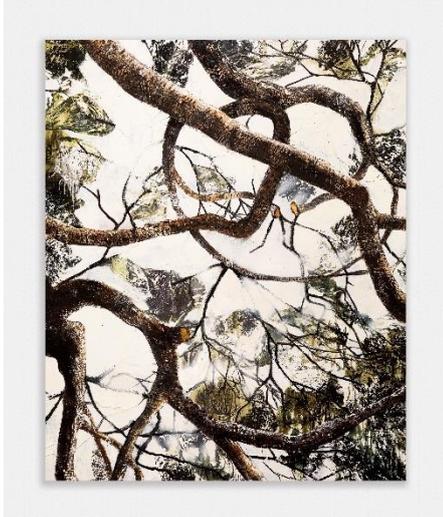


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILLIAM MACKINNON: FAREWELL TRANSMISSION



**OPENING 23 OCTOBER 2021
BLANC INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE**

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present *Farewell Transmission*, an exhibition of new and recent paintings by Australian artist William Mackinnon as part of Blanc Art Space's inaugural pop-up project in Beijing's Shunyi District. This will be the artist's first solo show in China. Mackinnon's landscape paintings portray the world he inhabits with ebullience, wonder and whispers. Mackinnon combines the real and the imaginary to transform everyday experiences from the mundane to an enigmatic other. The artist draws on personal experiences and familiar landscapes in his paintings, which oscillate from richly detailed figurations to expressive near-abstractions, and that dwell in the space between the familiar and the unknown.

Mackinnon's 'psychological landscape' paintings, as the artist refers to them, predominately portray landscapes and are vast in manners both terrestrial and emotional. Interweaving personal and cultural histories, his work absorbs the intensity of our present circumstances and ultimately seeks to convey how it feels to be alive in the world today. Trees and roads, recurring motifs in Mackinnon's work, dominate scenes constructed from memory and materialise into the artist's reflections on culture, heritage, family legacies and rivalries. Minute details, such as cracks in roads, potholes, roots, rocks, water, leaves, signposts, rainbows and termite mounds become stand ins for tumultuous emotional states in which thoughts of trauma, pain, loss and longing are positioned alongside feelings of regrowth, regeneration and conscious reinvention of the self. Mackinnon's paintings play on oppositions: light and darkness; anxiety and calm, comfort and threat; that which is deeply personal, yet profoundly universal.

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NOTES TO EDITORS**About William Mackinnon**

William Mackinnon was born in 1978 in Melbourne, Australia and lives and works between Ibiza, Spain, the UK and Australia. Mackinnon received his BFA from Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia in 2000 and his MFAs from Chelsea School of Art and Design, London, UK in 2006 and Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia in 2008. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Australia Council Grant in 2010. Mackinnon's solo shows include Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide, Australia (2020); Art Projects Ibiza, Ibiza, Spain (2019); Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide, Australia (2018); Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane, Australia (2016); Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Victoria, Australia (2013) and Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC (2012). Recent group exhibitions include 2017 Triennial, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (2017); Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria, Australia (2013); Milani Gallery, Brisbane, Australia (2011) and Royal College of Art, London, UK (2006). His work is included in the collections of National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; Ian Potter Museum Collection, Melbourne, Australia; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Queensland, Australia and Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, Australia.

About Blanc International Contemporary Art Space

Blanc Art Space will officially open the Blanc International Contemporary Art Space on 23 October 2021 in building D7 of the National Foreign Cultural Trade Base in the Shunyi District of Beijing. The inaugural exhibition will bring together 14 world-renowned galleries from nine countries, with artworks ranging from oil painting, print, installation, sculpture, ceramics, and other art mediums. Bringing together both international and regional galleries, the space will highlight participating galleries' artistic diversity and global vision while jointly offering a rich visual feast to the audience.

Blanc Art Space

Building D7, Yard3, East Jinhang Road
Shunyi District, Beijing (Tianzhu Comprehensive Bonded Zone)

October 23, 2021–January 23, 2022
Tuesday–Sunday, 10 AM–6 PM

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: William Mackinnon, *New Lover*, 2020-21. Acrylic, oil, glitter and automotive enamel on linen, 160 x 130 cm (63 x 51 1/8 in.) Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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