

Press Release

Fabian Peake. an eye either side

Hauser & Wirth Somerset
1 October 2022 – 2 January 2023



what is under there? oh, it's olives. what is
under the plate? a day of sun, a flat
day of rain. top hats talked; authority. I see
the oval cast its shadow, its plastic horse shoe.
blue light glows on the school's words. we went,
she cursed. a few kilts, a few high heels.
was that last squeak real? envelope's flap covered the
chalk horse on the stairs to a decision. delineate
the fury. I can only see the changing maps

on the way up. does the seam speak French?
the kiss does. vertical. I will remember not footsteps
of a daughter, the way the cloth folds. click.
shimmering lines cut the gardens and on Thursday people's
faces were melted at the edge. a half-spelt road,
noises next to my elbow. they lay the bricks
on the ground where wheels will crush centipedes. why
an eye either side of a polished peak? that
one, clomping, pushed the chair. we didn't stay; she

didn't want to. umbrellas stayed up. unheard words were
scrutinized. a cousin, unseen, died. I will mind the
scab when the clipper plies to and fro. the
rain held her legs – are you going already? where
the bottle struck the raised scab hardens. red wedge
slides under maroon. make sure you comment. the light
would make a difference. always, you know, he leaves
the gate open – the milky microbes can get in.
throw away the scissors and cook your marzipan moods.

Fabian Peake, 'an eye either side', 14/16 May 2022

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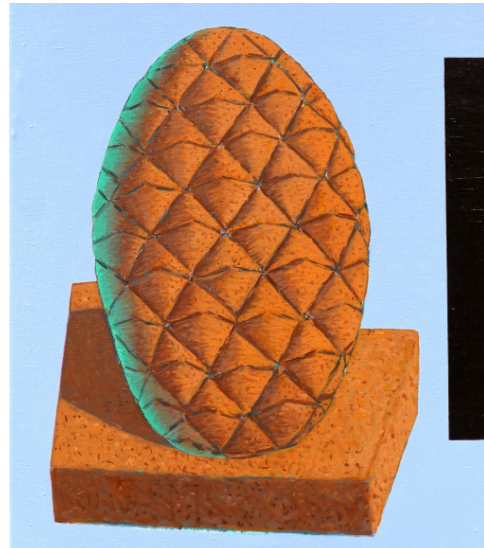
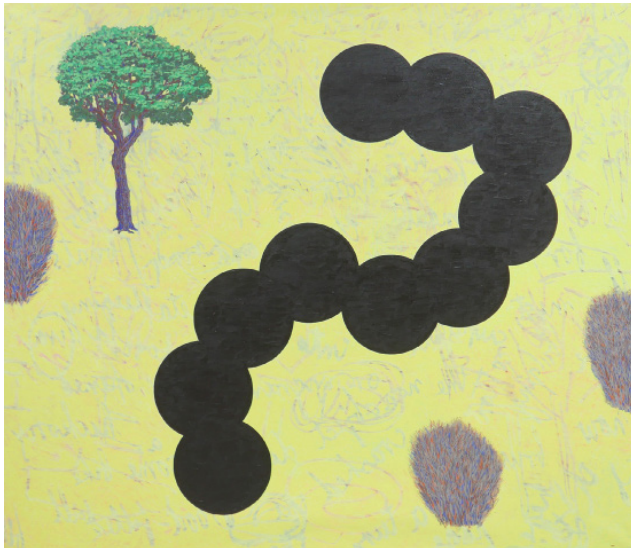
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About the exhibition

Fabian Peake emerged as a painter in the London art scene of the late 1960s. In the decades since, he has expanded his practice including several dramatic stylistic leaps, each time mastering a new visual language and exploring its capacity for image making. While he started out as a painter, Peake's later work broadened to incorporate tailored textile wall pieces, cut-out reliefs, sculpture, drawing, photography, writing and poetry, with each informing one another.

This landmark exhibition marks the artist's 80th birthday and is a celebration of Peake's broad and multifaceted career, as both artist and writer. Spanning six decades, the exhibition will encompass early paintings from the 1970s to new works and will showcase Peake's playful and experimental use of diverse media.

At the core of Peake's work is a concern with meaning, how it is constructed and where it is recomposed into something new. He approaches images and words as material, in the manner of collage, establishing a parallel between the visual and textual. Peake is interested in ideas of theatricality, performance and play. He adopts a neo-dada sensibility in which chance undermines predetermined outcomes, and games, whether with image or language, become the means through which to compose and create. He is also indebted to Pop art, however in his work images become symbols within a highly personal lexicon of meaning.



Fabian Peake is the son of the writer, illustrator and artist Mervyn Peake (1911 – 1968), best known for the 'Gormenghast' series of fantasy novels, and the painter and writer Maeve Gilmore (1917 – 1983). He studied first at Chelsea College of Art and then at the Royal College of Art. As a student, Peake met his wife, the artist Phyllida Barlow, with whom he has five children including the artists Eddie Peake and Florence Peake.

For many years, Peake taught painting as a Senior Lecturer in the Fine Art Department of Manchester Metropolitan University, while continuing his own career as an artist. He has had numerous solo exhibitions, the most recent at the Kunstmuseum, Luzern in 2019 and has been included in various group exhibitions in Great Britain, Europe, the United States and South America. He lives and works in London.

This exhibition runs alongside 'Louise Bourgeois. Drawing Intimacy 1939 – 2010' at Hauser & Wirth Somerset until 2 January 2023. An extensive event and learning program will accompany both exhibitions. Visit hauserwirth.com for further details.

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Gallery hours:

Tuesday – Sunday
10 am – 5 pm (October)
10 am – 4 pm (November – January)

www.hauserwirth.com
[@hauserwirthsomerset](https://www.instagram.com/hauserwirthsomerset)

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Fabian Peake
Pierrot's Message
1971
Oil on canvas
182 x 243 cm / 71 5/8 x 95 5/8 in

Fabian Peake
The Thought
2021 – 2022
Oil on canvas
134.5 x 155 cm / 53 x 61 in

Fabian Peake
A Pineapple's Distain
2017
Oil on canvas
66 x 56 cm / 26 x 22 in

Fabian Peake by John Malcolm Couzins
Modern bromide print, 31 July 1971
Estate John Malcolm Couzins



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