



Chris Christophorou: Untold

11 October - 24 November 2013



The Gallery @ Idea Store Whitechapel presents a selection of recent works on paper by Chris Christophorou.

Discovering the diminutive gouaches in Chris Christophorou's north London studio is like stopping to pick up a piece of limestone on a pebbly shore. Or spotting a faded flyposter whose tattered remnants left clinging to a wall catch your eye with a defiant air. Textured surfaces, veins of colour and discarded traces draw you in.

Painted over a year, the paintings in this exhibition represent a body of work that Chris began in summer 2012 in Chania, Crete. The light and textures of a new environment kick-started a switch in his practice. A random mark on the ground, a slatted window blind or what Chris describes as 'the edges of things' catalysed early works such as 'Some Horizons' and 'Dance Again 2'. Motifs morph from inconsequential beginnings into charged forms and spaces. Other works were produced in London, where the Mediterranean light transmuted into sombre, but no less intense, compositions. 'Settlement' and 'Atlantis, Improvised' have undergone a dynamic alchemical process - painterly negatives in a darkroom, developing before our eyes. Like Paul Nash's 'object-personages' - metamorphic stones and weathered driftwood found by the sea - the forms in Chris's paintings assume the personality, mood and moment of another. Deciding what these are falls to us, they are left untold.

Works in this show are raw yet evocative: from the concealed but changing glint of light in 'Behind Blue' to 'Topkapi', an unsettling image at which the longer you look, the closer you are to stepping into it.

Chris Christophorou lives and works in London. He studied fine art at Winchester School of Art, graduating in 1979. His first solo show, '33 Drawings', was held at Bloomsbury Theatre Gallery, London (1986). Solo exhibitions followed at the Sue Williams Gallery, London (1991) and at Galerie L'H du Siege, Valenciennes, France (2001).

Group shows include 'HAC Open Show', Camden Arts Centre (1985); Whitechapel Open (1988-90, 1996 and 1998); Space Studios Group Show (from 1986-92) and the Royal Academy Summer Show (2004 and 2005). Awards include Most Outstanding Painting at the Whitechapel Art Gallery Group Exhibition (1989); he was also shortlisted for the Bank of Cyprus Award (1993). His work is represented in the Arts Council Collection, the Unilever Contemporary Art Collection, the Bank of Cyprus and private collections in Europe.