

TOM HAMMICK NIGHT ANIMALS

4 April - 18 May 2019

Private View Wednesday 3 April, 6-8PM

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British artist Tom Hammick uses landscape as an arena for imagined scenes of love and loss. Shaped by diverse references from Northern European Romantic painting to daily news imagery and contemporary cinema, Hammick's depictions of solitary figures and isolated dwellings conjure mysterious narratives of those living on the edgelands and outskirts of society.

On view at Flowers Gallery will be a solo presentation of new paintings connected to both poetry and music, first developed during a residency at the 71st Aldeburgh Festival. Incorporating themes assembled from literary as well as musical sources, the subject matter of Hammick's paintings shifts fluidly between the biographical and poetic.



Walden Pond, 2019, oil on canvas, 138 x 199 cm

The dreamlike images in this exhibition intertwine sensory experiences of time and place with landscapes of the imagination. *Walden Pond* (referring to *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau's Transcendentalist account of 26 months living in a rural cabin in the Concord Woods, Massachusetts), provides the setting for several works as a symbol of solitude and the rejection of material culture. The paintings were initially influenced by *The Concord Sonata* by composer Charles Ives, which Hammick heard during the Aldeburgh festival, conjuring a powerful image of Thoreau and his cabin. In contrast to the spartan simplicity of Thoreau's retreat, the notions of liberation and escape in Hammick's paintings are troubled by revelry, love triangles, and the restless visions of his sleeping figures.

The characters in Hammick's paintings draw directly or in part to the lives of poets and artists - particularly those inspired by the night. In his fragmented, nocturnal scenes contemplative figures such as Wordsworth and Coleridge and artists working in their moonlit studios are fused with Hammick's own predisposition for working at night (such as *Night Studio* - a painting conceived during his Aldeburgh residency in response to Morton Feldman's score for flute percussion and piano *For Philip Guston*). Hammick's fractured collision of imagery recalls both collage and cinematic jump-cuts, altering the perception of time by re-visiting scenarios and motifs from earlier works. For example, in the painting *Poet Dreaming* (which references the composition of Marc Chagall's *The Poet Reclining* of 1915), a constellation of organic forms and procession of scenic tableaux recalls the fragmented nature of memory and dreams.

Tom Hammick has also recently made a new body of work to be published in *THE MAKING OF POETRY Coleridge, the Wordsworths and Their Year of Marvels* by Adam Nicolson, a magical account of the year Wordsworth and Coleridge spent together in Somerset producing some of the most famous poems in the English language and dreaming of a world changed by poetry. The book includes woodcuts by Tom Hammick made from the fallen timber in the park at Alfoxden where the Wordsworths lived. To be published by William Collins on 3rd June 2019.

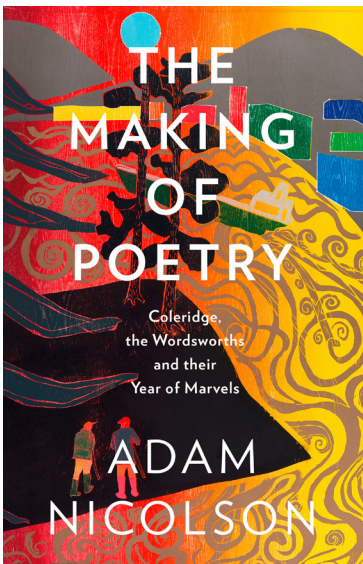
For more information please contact Hannah Hughes: +44 (0)20 7920 7777 / hannah@flowersgallery.com.



Clockwise from top left: *Henry's Cabin, Walden Pond 1*, 2018 Oil on canvas, *Campfire Study*, 2019, oil on canvas, 38 x 45.5cm 138 x 199 cm; *Poet Dreaming*, 2018, oil on canvas, 141 x 191 cm

ABOUT TOM HAMMICK

Tom Hammick (b.1963) is a British painter and printmaker, based in East Sussex and London, UK. He was the winner of the V&A Prize at the International Print Biennale, Newcastle, UK in 2016, and the print *Violetta and Alfredo's Escape*, 2016, was acquired by the V&A. Hammick has work in many major public and corporate collections including the British Museum (Collection of Prints and Drawings); Bibliotheque Nationale de France (Collection of Prints and Drawings); Deutsche Bank; The Library of Congress, Washington DC; The New York Public Library; Towner Gallery and Museum, Eastbourne; V&A (Victoria and Albert Museum); and Yale Centre for British Art. Hammick was Artist in Residence at the 71st Aldeburgh Festival in 2018 (aldeburghfestival.co.uk) and has been awarded the Joseph Albers Foundation Residency for 2019.



THE MAKING OF POETRY Coleridge, the Wordsworths and Their Year of Marvels by Adam Nicolson

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Exhibition opening hours: Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm.