

Richard Wathen



Richard Wathen is a British artist (b. 1971) based in Suffolk, UK. Wathen is known for his serene portraits of a variety of figures and animals depicted in states of repose against ethereal backgrounds of warm and cool-tone hues.

The figurative portraits he creates are a coalescence of autobiographical references, shown through his choices of dress, gender, colouring, and accessories, and found imagery sourced online from advertisements and old books. His compositions are carefully constructed, intricate and minimalist, displaying figures unbound by notions of identity. Portrayed in what Wathen defines as “non-space”, they are instead representations of human fragility, vulnerability, and our inevitable mortality.

Wathen’s work harnesses the stoicism of portraiture from 18th-century Britain, evoking the light palette and poetic sensibility of Thomas Gainsborough but with an eerie and unnerving atmosphere. Wathen employs the art historical tropes of portraiture from an autobiographical lens to give space to the emotive and the

unfamiliar, and thus reassess the universal understanding of portraiture as a genre historically dedicated to notions of the refined and familiar individual.

His work is included in the MOCA Collection, Los Angeles and the Olbricht Collection, Berlin. He has been included in several solo exhibitions such as *The Wait*, ANOTHER Gallery, NYC (2022); *Nobody wants to do nothing*, 57W57Arts, NYC (2022); *Works on paper*, FransKasl Projects, Eindhoven, (2021), to name a few. He has also exhibited his work in many group exhibitions internationally in places such as Europe, the UK, Dubai, and New York.

Richard Wathen CV

b. 1971 - London, UK

Lives and works in Suffolk, United Kingdom.

Education

1995-1996 MA Fine Art, Chelsea School of Art, London

1992-1995 BA Fine Art, Winchester School of Art

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2022 *The Wait* – ANOTHER Gallery, NYC

2022 *Nobody wants to do nothing* – 57W57Arts, NYC

2021 *Woolgathering* – (works on paper) FransKasl Projects, Eindhoven

2020 *New Eyes Every Time* – MOSTYN Gallery, Wales, curated by Alfredo Cramerotti

2019 *Futures and Pasts* – Atlas House, Ipswich

2015 Annalisa Stevens, London

2011 Max Wigram Gallery, London

2009 Max Wigram Gallery, London

2007 Max Wigram Gallery, London

2007 L&M Arts, New York

2006 Max Wigram Gallery, London

2005 *The Valley is Broken* – Salon 94, New York

2004 *Unpeacable Kingdom* – MW Projects, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023 *Contemporary Figuration: Between Body & Metaphor*, JD Malat Gallery, London

2022 *Double Trouble* – ANOTHER Gallery, Paris

2022 *Everywhere was nowhere and nowhere everywhere* – Pi Artworks, London, curated by Mustafa Hulusi

2022 *Men who paint flowers* – Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, FL

2022 *Escape from New York* – ANOTHER Gallery, LA

2022 *Be like water my friend* – Another Place, NYC

2021 *American Psycho* – Volery Gallery, Dubai, co-curated by Massine Benoukaci

2021 *Public Intimacy* – Confer-Karnac, London, curated by Hayley Lock

2020 *The Collector's Room* – JGM Gallery, London, curated by Karen David

2019 *MOSTYN Open 21* – MOSTYN Gallery, Wales, selected by Alfredo Cramerotti, Hannah Conroy, Katerina Gregos, and Jennifer Higgie

2019 *Preparing for Darkness, Vol. 3* – Kühlhaus, Berlin, curated by Uwe Goldenstein

2018 *3-5 Silent Street* – Ipswich, curated by Adam Thompson

2016 *Collateral Drawing* – Waterfront Gallery UCS, Ipswich

2016 *El dorado* – Horatio Junior, London

2015 *Tutti Frutti* – Turps Banana Gallery, London

2015 *Love: The First of the 7 Virtues* – Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, New York

2014 *States of Mind* – Maison Particulière, Brussels

2014 *Summer Salon* – Lion & Lamb Gallery, London

2013 *The Opinion Makers* – Lubomirov-Easton, Enclave Gallery, London

2012 *Wonderful - Humboldt, Crocodile & Polke* – The Olbricht Collection, ME Collectors Room, Berlin, Germany

2012 *Paintings* - Max Wigram Gallery, London

- 2012 *The Mechanical Hand 25 years of Print making at Paupers Press* – Group show, Kings Place Gallery, London
- 2011 *Angels and Urchins – 400 Years of Children’s Portraits* – Kunsthalle Krems, Austria
- 2011 *From the Recent Past: New Acquisitions* – The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California
- 2011 *Memories of the Future* – The Olbricht Collection, La Maison Rouge, Paris, curated by Wolfgang Schoppmann
- 2010 *Bigminis – Fetishes of Crisis* – CAPC Musee d’Art Contemporain de Bordeaux, France
- 2010 *Lust of Life and Dance of Death: Works from The Olbricht Collection* – Kunsthalle Krems, Austria
- 2010 *Karl Fritsch + Takeshi Miyakawa + Richard Wathen* – Salon 94, New York
- 2010 *Dawnbreakers* – John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
- 2010 *Passion Fruits - picked from the Olbricht Collection* – ME Collectors Room, Berlin
- 2009 *Young/Old Masters* – Robillant+Voena, London
- 2008 *Park Avenue* – Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton
- 2008 *Go For It* – Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen
- 2008 *No End in Sight* – Galerie Polaris, Paris
- 2007 *Old School* – Zwirner & Wirth, New York
- 2007 *Old School* – Hauser & Wirth, London
- 2007 *Eau Sauvage Part II* – Fieldgate Gallery, London
- 2006 *The Monty Hall Problem* – Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, curated by Slater Bradley
- 2006 *Eau Sauvage* – Lucy Mackintosh Gallery, Lausanne
- 2005 *Threshold* – Max Wigram Gallery, London
- 2005 *Silent Stories* – Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna
- 2005 *New Figuration* – Christina Wilson Gallery, Copenhagen
- 2005 *Faux Realism* – Rockwell Gallery, London
- 2004 *Expander* – Royal Academy of Arts at 6 Burlington Gardens, London, curated by Mustafa Hulusi

- 2004 *Year Zero `Vanitas`* – The Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland
- 2004 *She's Come Undone* – Greenberg Van Doren Gallery, New York, curated by Augusto Arbizo
- 2004 *Britannia Works* – Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art Centre & Xippas Gallery, Athens, curated by Katerina Gregos
- 2004 *I, Assassin* – Wallspace gallery, New York
- 2003 *Godzilla* – SODA Space, London
- 2003 *Selected Paintings* – MW Projects, London
- 2003 *The Rocca Pistola Collection* – New Inn Gallery, London
- 2003 *Flora and Fauna* – The Beehive, London
- 2002 *Viva Pablo* – Bart Wells Institute, London
- 2002 *Guns and Roses* – Brick Lane, London, curated by Juan Bolivar
- 1998 *Critical Faculty* – Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston

Public Collections

- Museum of Contemporary Art - Los Angeles
- The Olbricht Collection – Berlin
- The Saatchi Gallery – London

Selected Artworks



Richard Wathen
Untitled, 2023
Oil on linen over aluminium
panel
35 3/8 x 29 1/2 in
90 x 75 cm