

YAVUZ GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE | 13 NOV 2019

Images Cast by the Sun

André Hemer

Opening: 22 November, 7 – 9 pm

On view: Until 22 December 2019

Yavuz Gallery Singapore is proud to present *Images Cast by the Sun*, a solo exhibition by New Zealand artist **André Hemer**.

Hemer's practice foregrounds the intersections between digital form and traditional painting. Central to his practice is an exploration of what it means to create paintings during a time in history in which the experience of an object is being continuously torn between states of physical and digital materiality.

Images Cast by the Sun comprises works formed from a set of scanned images taken across two summers in Vienna, where the artist is based. The works continue Hemer's longstanding inquiries into the materiality and ontology of paint as it passes from physical object to digital image and back again. Using a flat-bed scanner, Hemer scans three-dimensional paint forms exposed to the elements and the lights of the scanner and the sun. The digital scans are edited and printed onto canvas, which then become a site for further physical painterly interventions. The resulting works render seamless the transactions between the real and the digital artefact — a metonym for the radically blurring of the digital and the real as life is increasingly mediated by digital technologies.

While the digital process' transmutation of materiality is at the centre of his practice, *Images Cast by the Sun* foregrounds a parallel alchemy — that of the sun. Scanning during the late afternoon and at sunset, Hemer digitally transforms objects into images at the moment when changes in the physical scattering of sunlight alter their appearance dramatically. The burnished gold-pink tones of the works' scanned underlayers are themselves indexes of light reflected — images *cast* rather than merely made. The repeated capture of a specific subject in changing light conditions is strikingly reminiscent of Impressionism's formalist experiments in the effects of colour and light. Hemer's works however shifts the parameters of this inquiry. Neither fully simulacra nor fully of the real, the works treat materiality and reality, rather than light alone, as transitory and fluid. According to critic Rose Vickers: "Though annexed to a time stamp — a specific day and time recorded in relation to the origin of the painting — they are as transient as a shifting plane of light." The transitory nature of sunlight becomes a metaphor for the material and the real in our digital age.

If Hemer's paintings function as indexes of the passage of time, his video works take time out of the equation. Paint instead is suspended a vacuum outside the space-time of the real. De-materialised, the materiality of the paint is paradoxically magnified, taking on celestial proportions and qualities. Paint spins on its own axis, bathing the viewer in their screens' artificial light, transformed into suns themselves.

The exhibition is accompanied by a new publication titled *Day Paintings & Images Cast by the Sun*, featuring images of two key bodies of Hemer's recent work alongside an essay by Rose Vickers.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

André Hemer (b. 1981) holds a PhD in Painting from Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney, Australia and his MA from the Royal College of Art, London. He has exhibited widely in New Zealand, Australia and internationally. Recent exhibitions include *Watching Windows*, curated by Andrew Clifford, Te Uru Contemporary Museum, Auckland (2017); *André Hemer – Paintings 2005–2015*, Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua City, New Zealand (2015); *Utopian Days*, curated by Martin Schulze and Hailey Grenet, Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea (2014); and *Critical Intent*, curated by Gary Sangster and Fan Lin, Guangzhou Art Center, Guangzhou, China (2014). His

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work is in the collections of Taiwan Museum of Art; Te Manawa Museum (New Zealand); Christchurch Art Gallery (New Zealand); and University of Canterbury (New Zealand), amongst others. In 2016 Hemer was awarded the prestigious New Paramount Award from the Wallace Arts Trust and the New Zealand Arts Foundation New Generation Award. In 2017, he was awarded a six-month residency at the International Studio and Curatorial Program, New York. Hemer is currently based in Vienna, Austria.

For inquiries and more information, please contact Caryn Quek at caryn@yavuzgallery.com or tel: +65 6734 3262.

Selected Works



An Image Cast by the Sun #2, 2019, acrylic and pigment on canvas, 224 x 152 cm

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An Image Cast by the Sun #3, 2019, acrylic and pigment on canvas, 155 x 110 cm



Sky sculpture #6, 2019, HD video (H.264), 1980 x 1080. 58 sec loop, vertical format

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