

ROMAN ROAD

PRESS RELEASE GUY HADDON-GRANT *SURRENDER*

Private View:

Wednesday 06 November 2019, 6 - 9 PM

Exhibition:

Thursday 07 November – Saturday 14 December 2019

Opening Hours:

Wednesday – Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM

Saturday, 12 PM – 5 PM

and by appointment

Roman Road is very pleased to present *Surrender*, a solo exhibition by British artist Guy Haddon-Grant. Featuring a selection of his sculptures and drawings made from natural and industrial materials, such as charcoal, wood, plaster and steel, the exhibition opens a dialogue between the figurative and the abstract, the persona and the anima, paradoxical presences that at once underpin the artist's practice. Through the display of monochromatic and sensuous forms, *Surrender* presents an overview of Haddon-Grant's work from the past nine years, taking a look at his artistic journey and his transition from representational art to abstraction.

Before completing his studies at Camberwell College of Art, London, Haddon-Grant spent two years in Florence, Italy, immersed in academic training, mastering his command for drawing, painting and sculpting portraits from life. On his return, he began to search beyond the surface expression, delving further into the unconscious parts of the mind to reveal something other, something more of the anima and personal impression of the figure being described. As a result, his works gradually began to take a more abstract form, informed by the figuration but yielding to gestural and intuitive explorations, opening them up to new streams of meaning and interpretation.

The exhibition features numerous sculptures alongside Haddon-Grant's *Cloud Study* (2017-2019), a large-scale charcoal drawing on canvas. While studying in Florence, the artist made cloud studies as a way to free his mind, projecting his observations into new structures and using the pigments of the materials to create a presence of form. He later started to re-examine these drawings for his new sculptures, liberating himself from the true representation by similarly reworking malleable materials to reinterpret the figuration. This can be seen in his *Untitled (Erased Head no.3)* (2015-2019), for which he applied and reapplied molten wax, evolving the portrayal from palpable to otherworldly, from enduring to evanescent. The abstract motifs of the pieces have since become increasingly dominant in Haddon-Grant's works as he continues to explore and succumb to visceral means of expression.

Surrender opens on Wednesday 06 November and will be on display at Roman Road until 14 December 2019.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Guy Haddon-Grant (b.1986, London) works across the mediums of sculpture and drawing. He started his studies at Camberwell College of Art, London, before moving to Florence, Italy, for two years to study the renaissance masters and their techniques. In 2016, Haddon-Grant was elected a member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors. He has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions, notably in *The British Figure* at Flowers Gallery, London (2015), and *Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2010* at A Foundation, Liverpool (2010) and ICA, London (2010-2011). Recent solo exhibitions include: *Surrender*, Roman Road, London (2019); *Ashes*, Dellasposa, London (2018); *Dust and Shadows*, Karavil Contemporary, London (2015); and *Apophenia*, Royal College of Art, London (2014).

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Guy Haddon-Grant, artist studio view, London, 2019. Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist. © Ollie Gordon

ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road was founded in 2013 by Marisa Bellani and initially began as a project space. The peculiarity of the premises has had a direct impact on the gallery's programme since its beginning. Tall and with a small footprint, the space led the director to challenge artists to employ the architectural elements in order to develop or restructure a body of work. Artists have frequently been asked to use the exhibition as a medium and have managed to transform the gallery room into a unique work of art. In 2014 the building underwent refurbishment to instate an additional private viewing space that gathers varied works by the gallery's represented artists, which are viewable by appointment. Since completing this renovation in 2015, Roman Road has established a qualitative programme, including participations at art fairs, and has seen its represented artists become internationally recognised by institutions and collectors.

For all press enquiries, please contact press@romanroad.com or +44 20 8981 7075
For all other enquiries, please contact info@romanroad.com