

# ROMAN ROAD

## PRESS RELEASE

### ALEXANDER JAMES

# LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN

Private View:  
Saturday 08 February 2020, 7 - 9 PM  
Exhibition:  
Sunday 09 February – Saturday 07 March 2020

Opening Hours:  
Wednesday – Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM  
Saturday, 12 PM – 5 PM  
and by appointment

Roman Road is thrilled to be starting the new year afresh with an insightful solo exhibition presenting recent works by British artist Alexander James. Featuring unique pieces traversing different mediums, *Look What The Cat Dragged In* takes visitors on a journey moving between a tangible reality and a digital existence. Through the artist's varied and vibrant works, preparatory documents and sketches, the display guides viewers through his creative thought process, bringing together elements that inform his continued investigation and questioning of how the increasing digitalisation of the world intertwines and dwells within contemporary identities.

Patching elements of the past, the present and the preempted future, James' multimedia works in *Look What The Cat Dragged In* reflectively tell a story about time. Teeming with recycled and timeworn fabrics, each holding their own tales of former eras and wearers, the artist's works manifest characters and scenarios triggered from his childhood memories, projecting facets of past encounters into present existence. Acting as a diary for the audience, he showcases works on paper documenting his experiences or thoughts, which are later combined and expanded to create the wider narrative of his finished canvases.



Alexander James, *The House On The Hill*, 2019-2020. Acrylic and fabric stitched onto canvas, 134 x 120 cm, unique. Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist

James seeks to reveal the impactful subtleties that exist in everyday interactions and the ever-present role digitalisation plays in defining personal identity today. Through his video *Lonely Gestures II* (2019-2020) and an installation of a reconstructed reality, he highlights how the technological future may extend the way in which we eventually experience life, transporting us into dreamlike scenarios that blur the lines between fantasy and truth. Situating viewers within realms known and unknown, James' unsettling works gesture a visionary commentary on our relationship with the digital world, and leave us to question and reflect on what human civilisation may be like in time ahead.

*Look What The Cat Dragged In* opens on Saturday 08 February and will be on display at Roman Road until Saturday 07 March 2020.

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Alexander James, *A.M-P.M.*, 2019-2020. Mixed media stitched onto fabrics with polyester and wadding, dimensions variable, unique. Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alexander James (b.1993, London) works across the mediums of painting, sculpture, video and installation. He graduated from the Camberwell College of Art, London, in 2015 with a BA degree in illustration. Previously, he completed an art foundation course at Leeds College of Art in 2012. James has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions in London, Paris, Berlin and New York, and has also curated numerous shows, most recently *One More Slope* at the Elms Lesters Painting Rooms, London (2020), in collaboration with the British Fashion Council. Recent solo exhibitions include: *I Loved Your Gestures*, Galerie Joseph, Paris (2019); *Sharper Than Razor Blades, Softer Than Leather, The Face Apartment*, New York (2019); and *A Kid Who Walked The Plank*, Working Projects, London (2018).

## ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road, founded by Marisa Bellani in 2013, grew organically from a project space to a gallery through establishing itself as a space of reference for contemporary art and photography. Located in London, Roman Road has recently redefined itself with a more fluid and cooperative approach, becoming a platform for collaborative exhibitions since the end of 2019. In 2017 Roman Road also added a research cell and an online journal to its activities in order to expand its horizons and to share with its audience information and knowledge that would go beyond art. The gallery has established a qualitative programme of around ten shows annually, including participations at notable international art fairs. Over the years, Roman Road has represented a talented roster of artists, among which Antony Cairns and Alix Marie, who have also seen their works exhibited in such institutions as Tate Modern, Stedelijk Museum and Musée des beaux-arts Le Locle. Since its marked shift to a collaborative platform, Roman Road supports young artists in expanding their careers and further learning to put together an exhibition and take the opportunity to push their practice further.

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