

THE BAKERY

PRESS RELEASE

STRANGE DREAMS

JACK LAVER AND JORDAN HEMINGWAY

Private View:
Thursday 24 June 2021, 6 - 9 PM
Exhibition:
Friday 18 June - Saturday 10 July 2021

Opening Hours:
Wednesday – Friday , 11 AM – 6 PM
Saturday, 12 – 5 PM
and by appointment

The Bakery, The Columbia, 95-99 Lancaster Gate, London, W2 3NS (access via side entrance)

In partnership with The Columbia, Roman Road is pleased to present *Strange Dreams* exhibiting the work of artists Jack Laver and Jordan Hemingway.

Can our perceptions of the human body be dysmorphic? Is our vision of ourselves and others sometimes distorted and augmented by our surroundings? Both Jack Laver and Jordan Hemingway respond to these questions through an immersive and defamiliarizing experience, focused on obscuring the human form and challenging our perception of it.

The artists' multimedia works of painting and photography are in dialogue with one another, building on and questioning the figurative and the abstract, the representational and the non-representational.

Alongside their works responding to these themes of perception, Laver and Hemingway present a collaborative film that pushes the boundaries of abstracting the human landscape. As Hemingway uses Laver's painting as a lens to skew the photographic image, their work expands on the idea of distorting the moving figure using external destructive materials.



Jordan Hemingway, *Red Spine*, 2021. Polaroid Bleach Wash, 135x110cm. Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist.



Jack Laver, *Profile #2*, 2021. Mixed Media on Canvas, 76.2x50.8cm. Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist.

All exhibited works are part of this artistic exchange, as Laver isolates and abstracts the figures from Hemingway's work. Hemingway's experimentation with bleach and chemical manipulation on photographic film parallels Laver's practice which combines ink and bleach, creating an 'erratic' artistic medium that organically evolves independently. In effect, the chemicals decay and abstract their works, distorting the familiar and verging on the transcendental.

In Laver's work, abstraction is always in some form representational. Thus, apart from the translucent 'skin' works on paper, he also presents his new canvas works in a new bold colour palette that corresponds with Hemingway's work. In response, Hemingway's abstract work depicts the intricacies of relationships and their toxicity.

The show will be held in The Bakery, a collaborative art space in London created in 2020 by Josh Fresco (Director of The Columbia) and Marisa Bellani (Creative Director of Roman Road). The Bakery aims to primarily showcase and promote emerging artists, bringing to its audiences an ongoing and dynamic programme of young artistic talents in the heart of West London.

Strange Dreams opens on Thursday 24 June and will be on display until Saturday 10 July 2021.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jack Laver is a London-based printmaker and painter. He graduated from London College of Communication in 2020 with a BA in Illustration and Visual Media. In 2020 he participated in the Summer Residency held at The Columbia in partnership with Roman Road Gallery. His recent group exhibitions include: *The Eternity Exhibition*, My Beautiful City, London (2020); *Fight or Flight*, The Bakery, London (2020); and *Themselves*, The Warehouse Festival, London (2019).

Jordan Hemingway is a New Jersey-born, London-based photographer, cinematographer and director. Jordan challenges the conventions of his medium with his tactile approach to image making. His work ranges from printed fine art to gritty celluloid that challenges hackneyed traditional stereotypes of beauty. Recently, Hemingway released a Gucci campaign and shot the album cover for singer-songwriter Yves Tumor. Last year he was also appointed the Artistic Developer of *Comme Des Garçons* and spent the last year working closely with Rei Kawakubo.

ABOUT THE COLUMBIA

The Columbia is a proudly independent, family-owned hotel, overlooking Kensington Gardens. A hotel, cultural house and event space in the heart of West London, The Columbia is set across five Victorian townhouses built in 1856 and has a rich and colourful history, with many well-known music icons passing through its doors in the 80s to early 2000s. The Columbia continues to be a home for creatives and supports, promotes and invests in art and new talent through its ongoing residency programme and dedicated exhibition spaces, creating an inclusive and diverse arts community in a non-traditional space.

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. Since the end of 2019, Roman Road has become a platform for collaborative exhibitions and has recently redefined itself with a more fluid and cooperative approach. After closing its doors to the public in spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Roman Road has taken this time to reform and realise a marked shift in its activities. The context of 2020 has accelerated the director's decision to close the physical premise and to make Roman Road a gallery without walls. Roman Road has opened its network of artists and clients to collaborations and its expertise and experience to implementing an arts programme in new and diverse structures.

For all press and general enquiries, please contact: thebakery@thecolumbia.co.uk