



For immediate release

Dan Oliver

Our Nature

9 December, 2022 - 7 January, 2023

Opening Reception: Thursday, 8 December 2022, 5 - 8 pm (Artist will be present)



Entwined, 2022, acrylic on canvas, 55.8 by 55.8 cm.
Courtesy of the artist and JPS Gallery.

JPS Gallery is pleased to present *Our Nature*—a solo exhibition by Dan Oliver at the gallery’s Hong Kong location. The works on display reveal Oliver’s ongoing contemplation of nature, both in the sense of the outer, physical world, and as a symbol and metaphor in the mind, where nature becomes the language of dreams and meaning.

Our Nature presents a world inherently teeming with both beauty and danger. It reminds viewers that we are part of nature, we impact it, and that nature also defines us, highlighting the everlasting bond between nature and ourselves. The world is in constant flux. Ironically, our separation from nature and the desire to control it has led to human caused climate change, and the acceleration of change has created dangers that might be beyond our control. *Our Nature* becomes a moment of meditation and a reminder of our deep connection with nature.



In this time of uncertainty, Oliver offers us a sense of comfort. In his new work he represents human experience through the subject of nature, memory, and the ordinary world around us. Using recurring elements such as houses from his childhood in a small American town, entwined with undisturbed climbing bushes or human figures placed against unspoiled landscapes, Oliver creates his unique painterly vocabulary. He shows us the world as if filtered and simplified through memory or dreams, and viewers are invited to pause, observe, reflect on the many meanings embedded in the images and realise how nature can provide us with poetic elements that speak the language of the psyche.

Oliver is interested in how, in the process of remembering, reality blurs into symbols as our minds let details fall away and reconstruct the world according to what matters to us. Oliver said, “Like the mind in dreams, these paintings redeploy the imagery of nature to represent the self. As in our dreams, the paintings are nature imagining itself.”

Oliver’s works are thoughtfully and painstakingly produced. Compositional ideas are drawn, redrawn, and refined. Therefore, displayed alongside the canvas paintings are some of the graphite preparatory sketches on paper that led to the creation of the paintings. These drawings offer insight into the artist’s creative process and give us even more room for reflection as we see how the same idea can be realised in different mediums. Frequently, Oliver finds inspiration from his previous works and creates new works in dialogue with earlier ones. The painting titled *Survivor* was inspired by his 2021 painting *Fervor*, which depicted a man’s torso against a backdrop of stylised water, with his chest open to reveal a burning fire inside. The new painting *Survivor* plays with a similar juxtaposition of opposites—this time, a man in a lifeless desert has an opening in his back revealing enough metaphorical water to survive the harsh landscape. Seeing the figure from behind, and beholding the same scene that he faces, increases our identification with him, and so in a way, we all are the survivor. Oliver’s painting, *The Lake* is also a reinterpretation of an earlier work. Here we see a seemingly peaceful scene, yet a broken tree trunk suggests some past violence, and leafless tree branches remind us that nature contains both danger and beauty, life and death. It recalls the threat of climate change and is simultaneously a reminder of the brevity and unpredictability of life. The painting *Entwined* drew inspiration from vines growing on ancient statues. Here we see two feet planted firmly on the ground as vines grow wildly around and up the figure’s legs. It implies both stasis and change, permanence and the passage of time. The figure’s identity remains unknown, prompting the viewer to speculate on the image’s possible meanings.

Whether human desires outweigh the importance of maintaining a peaceful natural environment will continue to be a subject of discussion. Through this exhibition, Oliver hopes to encourage viewers to pause and reflect before coming to their own conclusion.



About Dan Oliver

With his distinctive painting style that combines surrealism and rural romanticism, Dan Oliver constructs a dream-like vision of the world that is simultaneously familiar and strange. Oliver's imagery ranges from figural to abstract, and realistic to symbolic. He skilfully blends past memories with concerns of the present, creating idyllic, yet haunting images evoking nostalgia, and engaging with contemporary concerns. His work's refined simplicity achieves an iconic appearance that is both striking and memorable. With elements such as fire, water, empty landscapes and morphing forms, Oliver's idyllic paintings embody emotional and provocative narratives. Their clean simple forms and quiet beauty allow us to keep looking and thinking about the real world, which can sometimes be complex and frightening. The paintings invite viewers to reflect upon their place in this world, leaving room for dialogue and multiple interpretations.

Oliver grew up in the southern Illinois cities of East Saint Louis and Belleville. He earned his BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and later an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. During his postgraduate programme, Oliver studied under several members of the innovative Chicago Imagists artist group, such as Jim Nutt, Ray Yoshida and Don Baum. Other influential members of that group who inspired Oliver were the painters Christina Ramberg and Roger Brown. This experience led him to combine the group's irreverent grotesquery and modernist technique with other influences from Surrealism, Modernism and Pop Art. All of that combined with his American small-town upbringing, manifests in his canvases—a union of the modernist technique, contemporary culture, and rustic idleness.

The artist now lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.

About JPS Gallery

Established in Hong Kong in 2014 and later in Japan, Paris and Barcelona, JPS Gallery is an independent contemporary art gallery presenting works of emerging and established artists from around the world.

The gallery is founded with a passionate spirit that dedicates to the new digital age and the exploration of the world of fine art and pop culture. We aim to create an innovative environment for a new generation of artists and collectors, fostering a creative space for all. We focus on fun and playful works of the era that spans across different mediums and disciplines, showcasing a discerning selection of works that embody the aesthetics of today.

We are committed to supporting the culture and art scene both in Japan and Hong Kong, creating a vibrant local art community. The gallery regularly presents works of emerging artists in our gallery spaces in Tokyo and Hong Kong as well as international art fairs, giving them a platform to



gain global exposure, supporting young artists to launch their careers. JPS has also been an active contributor to society and the local art scene by sponsoring various charity events and auctions.

Location

Shops 218-219, 2/F, LANDMARK ATRIUM, 15 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong.

Media Enquiry

For media enquires and press preview, please contact
Zoe Ho | zoe@jpsgallery.com

Social Media Hashtags

@dan_oliver_artist @jpsgallery
#danoliver #ournature #jpsgallery

即時發佈

Dan Oliver **「Our Nature」**

2022年12月9日 – 2023年1月7日

開幕酒會：2022年12月8日，下午5時至8時（藝術家將會出席開幕酒會）



《Entwined》，2022，壓克力於畫布，55.8 x 55.8 厘米。

圖片由藝術家和 JPS 畫廊提供。

香港 JPS 畫廊欣然呈獻 Dan Oliver 的個人展覽「Our Nature」。是次展覽是 Oliver 對自然的探索體驗，無論是用眼睛觀察到的事物，或是用心靈體會的感受，他將這一切轉化成與自然溝通的語言和符號，從而領悟當中的底蘊。

「Our Nature」演繹的是一個充滿美麗和危機的世界。它提醒觀眾，我們也是自然的一部分，任何改變自然的事情，其實最終也會令我們的生活受到影響，這是一個永恆不變的事實。世事瞬息萬變，人類為了一己私慾，造出各樣控制自然的行為，諷刺的是，這種行為帶來氣候危機，甚至已經到達危害人類的地步。「Our Nature」也希望帶出另一個「人性」的意思，讓我們的本性引領我們有一個靜思的時刻，讓我們的本性提醒我們與自然的緊密關係。



生活在這個變幻無常的時期，這個展覽讓各位有一個喘息的機會。Oliver 以自然、記憶和各樣平凡事物讓我們反思人類所做的一切。在他的作品中，同樣的物件卻會以不同的時態呈現，就如出現在美國小鎮房屋前的樹木，將枯萎的攀緣灌木叢與未受破壞的景觀襯托在一起，達成相映生輝的效果。Oliver 以簡約畫風過濾他的夢境和記憶，邀請觀者駐足、觀察和反思箇中的意義，使大自然成為與心靈對話的詩意元素。

Oliver 喜歡將現實中的記憶玩弄成模糊的符號，就像我們的思想一樣，在思考中的細節消失之前，將重要的事情組合並紀錄起來。Oliver 說道：「在夢境世界中，大自然以它的角度告白自己的想法。在夢境裡，大自然告訴我們，它就是這個模樣了。」

Oliver 的創作都是經深思熟慮的精心製作。在創作的過程中，他會先繪畫概念草圖，務求達致盡善盡美。為了讓觀眾更了解他的創作過程，和不同媒介所呈現的不同美態，除壓克力畫布以外，也會展出一系列的紙本作品。

Oliver 喜歡以新的創作開啟一趟與舊創作的對話，所以會在舊作品中不斷探索，再將其重新演繹。《Survivor》啟發自他之前創作的另一幅畫作《Fervor》。《Fervor》描繪的是一個背後是水源的男人，他的胸口被打開，露出正在燃燒的火焰。《Survivor》則描述一個背景是沙漠的男人，他的胸口滿載水源。這兩幅作品均建構起共存與對立的矛盾關係，水源與火焰，死寂的沙漠與活著的男人，滿載充足的水源卻活在惡劣的環境。從這個男人背後的角度細想，他所面對的就是現實的反映，為了生存，儘管面前的一切都是嚴峻的考驗，我們卻總要帶著希望前進。《The Lake》也是一幅早期作品的全新演繹。在看似平靜的場景，卻出現一棵枝幹折斷的枯樹。折斷的樹幹讓我們反思人類對自然的暴力行為，讓我們正視這個已經無法修補的後果。生命本無常，這幅畫作不但提醒我們氣候危機的威脅，也提醒我們生命是短暫而不可預測的。是次展出的作品中，每一幅作品都隱含著讓人徹底反思的意義。《Entwined》啟發自古代雕像上的藤蔓，藤蔓牢牢地從畫中的雙腳向上生長，畫中的一切都啟發思考，到底是停滯還是正在生長；是永恆還是正在流逝；是神還是另有其人……。

到底人性的私慾重要，還是維持自然的和平重要，每個人都自有其解說。Oliver 希望藉著是次展覽，鼓勵我們停下來反思及尋找答案。

關於 Dan Oliver

Dan Oliver 以獨特的抽象繪畫風格創造他的奇幻國度，並以超現實主義和鄉村浪漫主義來評論世界。

Oliver 的作品從具像到抽象，包含現實和象徵性的元素，他巧妙地將過去的記憶與現代元素融為一體，以簡約畫風創作標誌性圖案，體現情感和嘲諷的敘事方式。他的作品不但喚起舊



有記憶，也連繫著當代事物。Oliver 的作品充滿情感而且發人深省，以火、水、風景和影像變形等獨特圖案演繹他的理想國度，引領我們觀察和思考這個複雜而可怕的世界，反思自己當前的位置。他的作品沒有既定的註釋，讓觀眾留下思考的空間。

Oliver在伊利諾伊州南部的東聖路易斯和貝爾維爾成長。他分別在堪薩斯城藝術學院取得學士學位，及芝加哥藝術學院取得藝術碩士學位。他的繪畫風格深受碩士生涯時期影響，Oliver當時曾跟隨 Christina Ramberg 和 Roger Brown 等創新的芝加哥意象派藝術家團體，學習超現實主義、現代主義及波普藝術的繪畫技巧。其後學以致用，以現代主義和鄉村浪漫主義呈現美國小鎮的生活點滴。

除繪畫外，Oliver也從事多個文化機構的工作，並擔任芝加哥歷史博物館的展覽設計師。藝術家現於芝加哥生活和工作。

關於JPS畫廊

JPS畫廊始創於二零一四年，先後在香港和日本成立畫廊空間，並將在二零二二年秋季於巴黎及二零二三年春季於巴塞隆拿成立新的畫廊空間。是一所主打當代藝術的畫廊，代理來自世界各地的新晉及知名藝術家。

畫廊旗下的藝術家大玩流行文化，從現代生活文化符號取材，以不同媒介創作出獨特的當代藝術品，趣緻玩味，呈現當代美學。本畫廊不但為新一代藝術家提供自由的創作空間，亦為收藏家提供別樹一幟的藝術品，更為香港藝術品市場帶來緊貼時代潮流的作品。更為香港藝術品市場帶來緊貼時代潮流的作品。

我們矢志於推動香港及日本的文化與藝術界發展，為本地建立充滿活力的藝術社區。我們會定期為藝術家於香港和東京兩地的畫廊設置展覽，亦會安排他們的作品於國際藝術節展出，讓新晉藝術家得以於國際舞台嶄露頭角，同時維持知名藝術家在全球藝術市場的熱度。除了貢獻本地藝術界，畫廊亦熱心公益，積極參與和贊助各項慈善和義賣活動以回饋社會。

地點

香港中環皇后大道中15號置地廣場中庭2樓218-219號舖

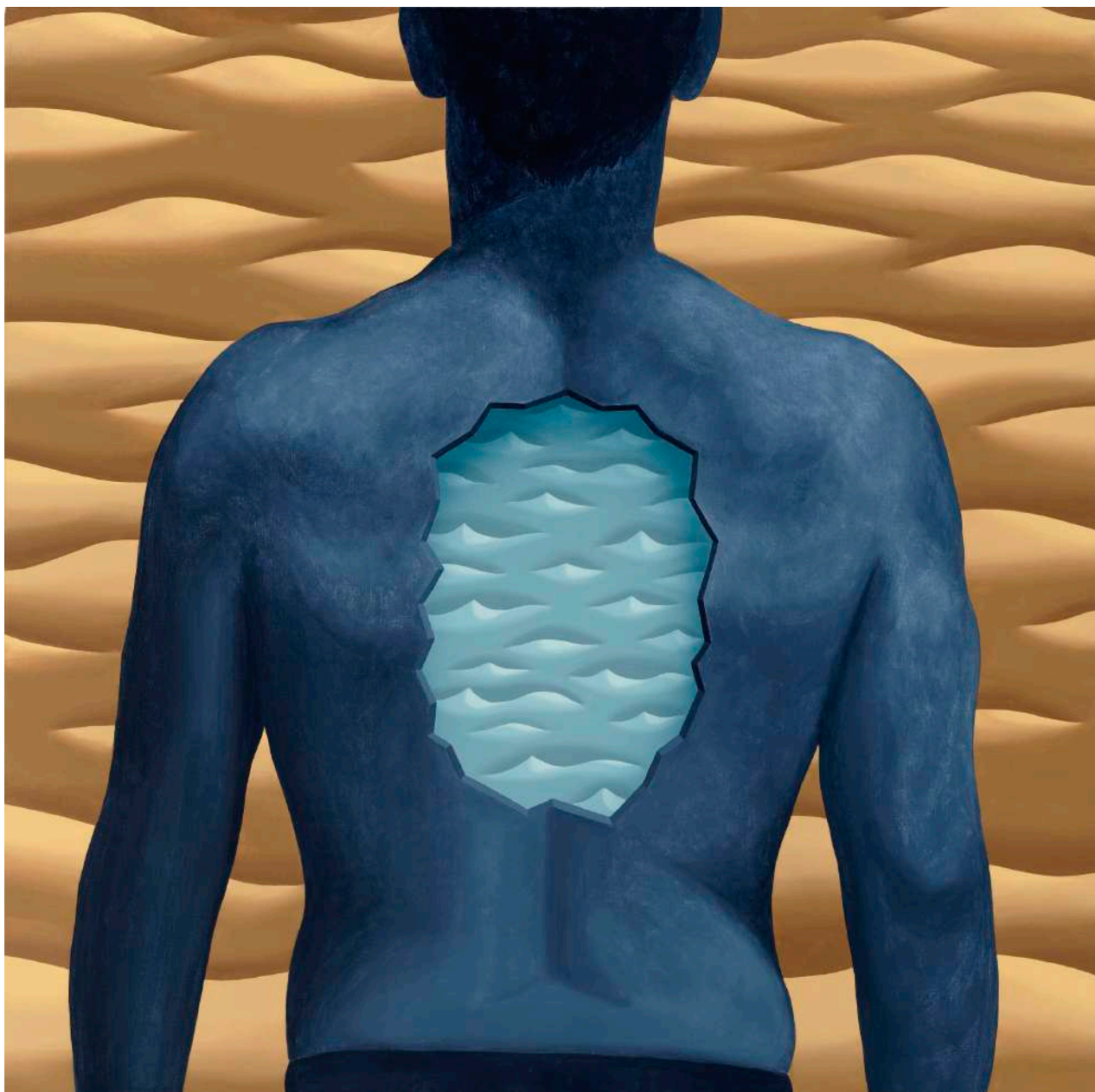


媒體查詢及導覽,請聯絡

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社交媒體標籤

@dan_oliver_artist @jpsgallery
#danoliver #ournature #jpsgallery



Survivor

2022
Acrylic on canvas
91.4 by 91.4 cm

2022年作
壓克力於畫布
91.4 x 91.4 厘米



The Lake

2022
Acrylic on canvas
76.2 by 101.6 cm

2022年作
壓克力於畫布
76.2 x 101.6 厘米



Intentions vs. Reality

2022
Acrylic on canvas
76.2 by 91.4 cm

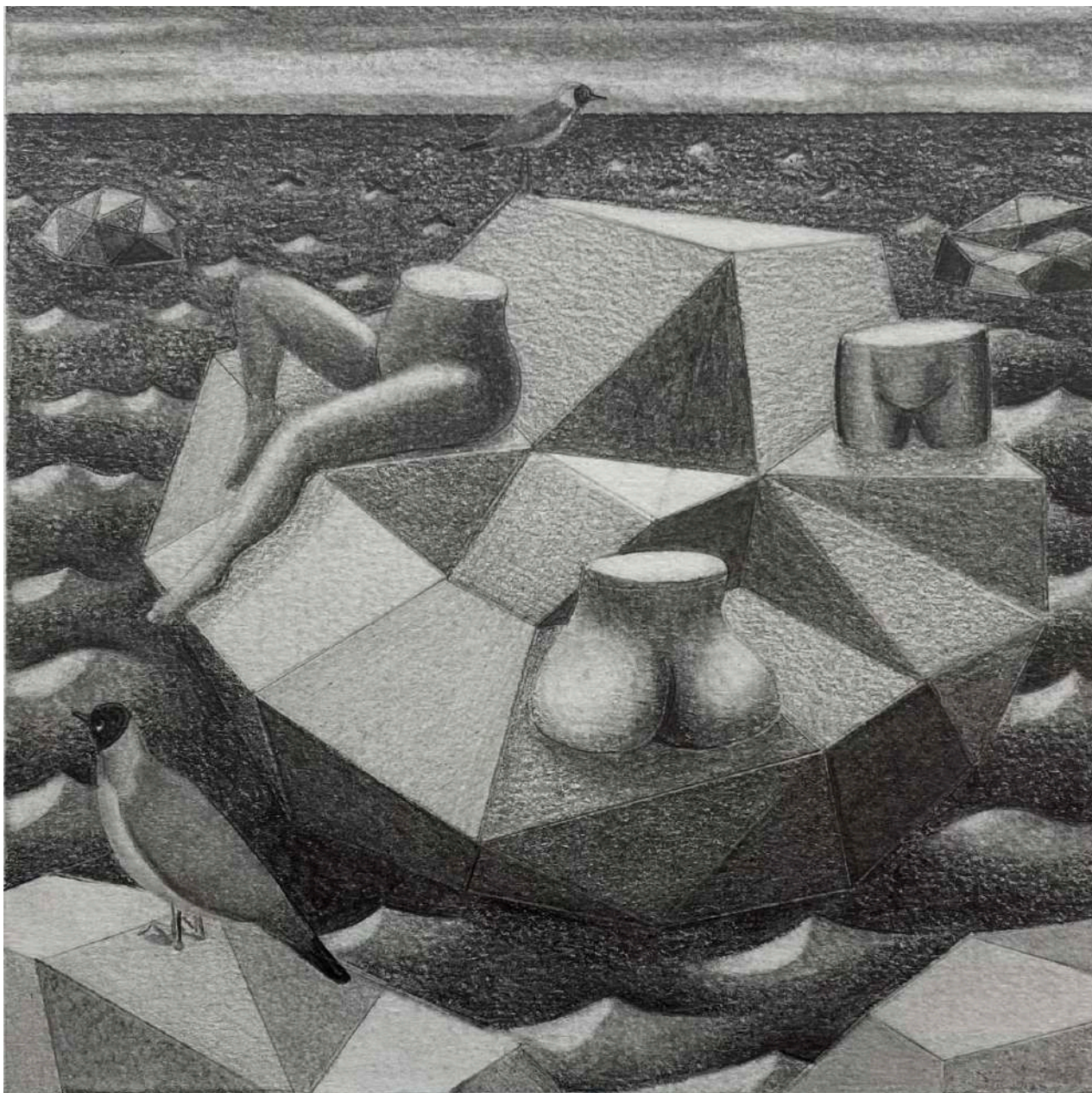
2022年作
壓克力於畫布
76.2 x 91.4 厘米



Abundance (study)

2022
Graphite on paper
15.24 by 15.24 cm;
33 by 32.1 cm (framed)

2022年作
石墨於紙
15.24 x 15.24 厘米;
33 x 32.1 厘米 (已裱框)



Love Song to the Unconscious (study)

2022

Graphite on paper

15.24 by 15.24 cm;

33 by 32 cm (framed)

2022年作

石墨於紙

15.24 x 15.24 厘米;

33 x 32 厘米 (已裱框)