



For immediate release

Dan Oliver

Shelter

12 October - 10 November, 2023

Opening Reception: Wednesday, 11 October 2023, 6 - 9 pm (Artist will be present)



Inferno (#2), 2023, acrylic on canvas, 55.88 by 55.88 cm.
Courtesy of the artist and JPS Gallery.

American artist Dan Oliver, who is known for his ethereal, dreamlike paintings, will present his first solo exhibition in Paris at JPS Gallery entitled *Shelter*. Houses, birdhouses, a church, and a tent become points of convergence for the ordinary and the peculiar, and invite viewers into narratives in progress. Without knowledge of how they began, or where they are going, these stories remain open-ended, thus requiring the viewer's imagination to complete the picture.

Ranging from perplexing concepts such as the merging of the natural and the artificial, exemplified in his paintings of birdhouses situated atop tree branches, resembling heads on necks, to his iconic portrayal of buildings burning from within or bursting into a profusion of flora, Oliver's artistic



practice often involves revisiting subjects he has previously explored, particularly in cases where the subject matter remains pertinent in his life.

Highlighting the exhibition are Oliver's paintings of middle-class homes situated in unconventional locations, including bodies of water or underground caves. The painting *Subterranean* depicts Oliver's childhood home in a dimly lit cave that symbolises the primordial, the dark, the hidden, the ancient, the subconscious, the womb and the slow drip of time. On the other hand, the house represents the self, family, society, safety, childhood and innocence. Since the deaths of his parents, Oliver's childhood home became a collection of memories, ideas, and emotions he desired to preserve in this unchanging womb-like cave which appears impervious to time. Furthermore, the house lights remain on, giving the impression of his parents' everlasting presence within the home.

Oliver's paintings have always encompassed more than a singular theme, and his inspiration for depicting burning buildings originated from a devastating church fire in his childhood. When the Notre Dame Cathedral burned in 2019, this tragic event also left a deep impression on him, as the image of a church represents more than just a childhood memory. It also symbolises a worldview that many find increasingly implausible, and represents an institution complicit in numerous crimes throughout history. Creation and destruction is an inevitable cycle, and these paintings of burning churches serves both as a poignant reminder of cherished memories and as the decline of a corrupt institution undergoing purification, transformation and destruction. Upon learning that he would be exhibiting in Paris, Oliver knew that he would create another painting of a burning church, since, like himself, France has also experienced a long and complicated history with Catholicism and had to watch a beloved church burn down. The painting, titled *Inferno (#2)* is an obvious reference to Dante's depiction of Hell and reinforces the themes mentioned above. Oliver hopes the painting will evoke the same complexity of emotion in Parisian viewers as it does in him.

The emotional breadth of Oliver's paintings spans from menacing to mayhem and from nostalgic to surreal. The graphic simplicity that characterises his work is complemented by an open-ended narrative that invites the viewer to wander a labyrinth of endless disintegrations and becomings. Shelters are erected, protected, threatened and transformed in ways both violent and gentle, making viewers question how these unexplained visions map onto their own realities. That is the challenge Oliver is proposing to viewers in this visual play—to finish the dream.

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 anxieties of the present, creating idyllic, yet haunting images evoking nostalgia, yet 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.

About JPS Gallery

Established in Hong Kong in 2014 and later in Tokyo, 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 in Asia and Europe, creating a vibrant local art community. The gallery regularly presents works of emerging artists in our gallery spaces as well as international art fairs, giving them a platform to gain global exposure, supporting young artists to launch their careers. JPS Gallery has also been an active contributor to society and the local art scene by sponsoring various charity events and auctions.

Location

12 rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth, 75003 Paris

Media Enquiry

For media enquires and press preview, please contact
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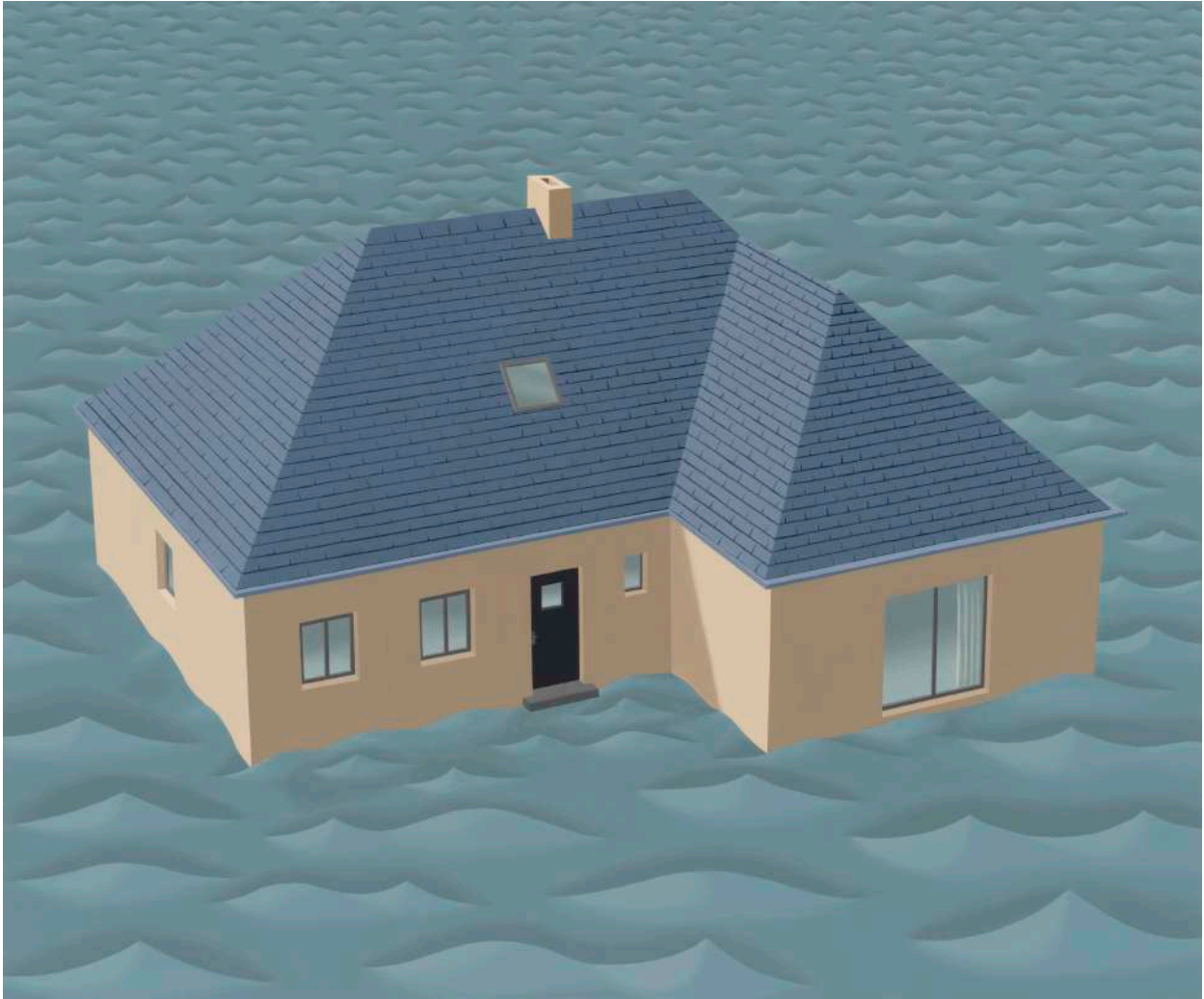
Social Media Hashtags

@dan_oliver_artist @jpsgallery
#shelter #danoliver #jpsgallery



Subterranean

2023
Acrylic on canvas
63.8 by 129.54 cm



Adrift

2023
Acrylic on canvas
76.2 by 91.44 cm



A Day in the Country

2023
Acrylic on canvas
68.58 by 121.92 cm



Red Birdhouse

2023

Acrylic, gel medium and modelling paste on canvas

76.2 by 101.6 cm



Red Ruin

2023

Acrylic on canvas
60.96 by 60.96 cm