

# MOON RABBIT

## JOE WARRIOR-WALKER

### TEXTE CURATORIAL

Présentée pour la première fois à la SEPTIEME Gallery à Cotonou en janvier 2023, l'exposition personnelle Moon Rabbit de Joe Warrior-Walker arrive à Paris pour une seconde itération. À travers ces œuvres, l'artiste explore la mémoire, le territoire et l'identité culturelle, offrant une réflexion sensible sur notre façon de donner du sens au monde qui nous entoure. Ses abstractions saisissantes tissent un dialogue entre souvenirs personnels et phénomènes universels, invitant le spectateur à se déplacer entre le réel et l'imaginaire.

Les peintures de Joe Warrior-Walker sont la traduction visuelle d'un lieu, d'une mémoire et d'un rapport à l'identité culturelle. Le titre de cette exposition fait référence à une interprétation paréidolique. Il s'agit du phénomène qui consiste à percevoir des images dans des formations nuageuses ou à voir une icône religieuse brûlée dans une tranche de pain grillé. En Occident, un exemple courant de paréidolie est l'homme dans la lune, créé par les marques sombres visibles sur sa face la plus proche. En Asie de l'Est, ces marques sont appelées "lapin de la lune". Nous sommes prédisposés à interpréter l'image et le sens dans l'abstraction, c'est l'une des façons dont nous donnons un sens au monde.

Ces dernières peintures peuvent être interprétées comme des abstractions, mais elles intègrent une attention à la structure du paysage. L'œuvre oscille entre l'ambiguïté et la tangibilité, faisant référence au monde réel sans jamais dépeindre directement un endroit en particulier. Le processus de Warrior-Walker s'inspire de la psychogéographie et répond aux voyages effectués dans son environnement, tout en réimaginant les environnements qui ont façonné son enfance. L'œuvre fait un clin d'œil aux liens de l'artiste avec le Royaume-Uni et l'Inde, embrassant l'histoire des peintures de paysages abstraits de St Ives en Cornouailles, tout en appliquant une palette plus vibrante rappelant les pigments poussiéreux du Kerala.

# TEXT CURATORIAL

First presented at SEPTIEME Gallery in Cotonou in January 2023, this second iteration of Joe Warrior-Walker's solo, Moon Rabbit, continues its journey in Paris. The works delve into the artist's exploration of memory, place, and cultural identity, offering a profound meditation on how we perceive and interpret the world around us. Through vibrant abstractions, Warrior-Walker bridges personal history and collective phenomena, inviting viewers to navigate the spaces between the tangible and the imagined.

Warrior-Walker's paintings imbue a visual translation of place, memory, and a connection to cultural identity. The title of this show refers to a pareidolic interpretation. The phenomena of perceiving images in cloud formations, or seeing a religious icon burnt into a slice of toast. In the West a common example of pareidolia is the Man in the Moon, created by the dark markings visible on its nearest side. In East Asia the markings are referred to as the Moon Rabbit. We are hardwired to interpret image and meaning into abstraction, it's one way in which we make sense of the world.

These latest paintings can be read as abstractions, however they incorporate an attention to the structure of landscape. The work fluctuates between ambiguity and tangibility, referencing the real world while never directly depicting any one place. Warrior-Walker's process draws from Psychogeography, responding to journeys throughout his surroundings, alongside a reimagining of the environments that shaped his childhood. The work nods to the artist's connection to the UK and India, embracing the history of the abstracted landscape paintings of St Ives in Cornwall, whilst applying a more vibrant palette reminiscing the dusty pigments of Kerala.

# BIOGRAPHIE

## JOE WARRIOR-WALKER

Né en 1989, **Joe Warrior-Walker** a grandi dans la ville balnéaire de St Ives, en Cornouailles. Il a passé une grande partie de son enfance à voyager en Asie avec ses parents. Sa mère d'origine indienne et son père britannique sont tous deux des artistes actifs qui partagent leur temps entre l'Angleterre et l'Inde. En 2011, il s'installe à Londres pour étudier à la Chelsea School of Art. La même année, il est lauréat du Brenda Landon Portrait Prize. Après avoir obtenu son diplôme avec mention très bien, il a reçu une bourse pour effectuer un master à l'UEA de Londres. Après avoir quitté l'école d'art, Warrior-Walker a commencé à exposer dans diverses galeries londoniennes telles que Lacey Contemporary et The Strand Gallery. En 2016, il s'est installé à Bristol où il travaille actuellement dans les BV Studios. Joe Warrior-Walker a beaucoup exposé dans des expositions collectives et a eu plusieurs expositions individuelles. Son travail a été exposé à travers le Royaume-Uni et à l'international.

# BIOGRAPHY

Born 1989, **Joe Warrior-Walker** grew up in the seaside town of St Ives Cornwall. He spent much of his childhood travelling across Asia with his parents. His Mother of Indian heritage and British father are both working artists who would split their time between England and India. In 2011 he relocated to London to study a degree at The Chelsea School of Art. The same year he was also awarded winner of The Brenda Landon Portrait Prize. After graduating with first class honours he was awarded a scholarship to complete a Masters degree at UEA London. After leaving Art School Warrior-Walker began to exhibit in various London galleries such as Lacey Contemporary and The Strand Gallery. In 2016 he moved to Bristol where he currently works from BV Studios. Joe Warrior-Walker has exhibited extensively in group shows and has had several solo exhibitions. His work has been exhibited across the UK and internationally.

## CV

**JOE WARRIOR-WALKER**

B. 1989, ENGLAND  
LIVES AND WORKS IN BRISTOL

**EDUCATION**

- 2014 Chelsea School of Art – Masters Degree – First Class Honours.  
 2011–2013 Chelsea School of Art – Bachelor of Arts Fine Arts – Higher 2:1.  
 2009 Tregye College of Art – Foundation/ Art and Design – Distinction.  
 2007–2008 Truro College – Two year National Diploma/ Art and Design – Triple Distinction.

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2025 [Upcoming] Informality Gallery London, March 2025  
 2024 Moon Rabbit, SEPTIEME Gallery, Cotonou, Benin.  
 Coates & Scarry Bristol hosted at Midland rd Gallery, Silt & Stone, curated by Richard Scarry, Bristol, UK.  
 2022 Chalkland, SEPTIEME Gallery, Paris, France.  
 2019 That Art Gallery Bristol, When Patterns Form Pictures, Bristol, UK.  
 2018 Tungsten Gallery London, Pentimento, London, UK.  
 2016 The Lost & Found Gallery Cornwall, Shifting Spaces, St Ives, UK.

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 South by South West, Gurr Johns Gallery London curated by Lewis Dalton Gilbert, London, UK.  
 New Now, Guts Gallery London co curated by Brynley Odu Davies & Ellie Pennick, London, UK.  
 New Abstractions, Informality Gallery hosted at Cromwell Place, curated by Frederick McDonald, London, UK.  
 Delphian Open, Delphian Gallery London, curated by Benjamin Murphy, London, UK.  
 Depot 24 Art Fair Oxford, Informality Gallery, curated by Frederick McDonald, Oxford, UK.  
 2023 Beyond Boundaries, curated by Brynley Odu Davies & Ellie Pennick, Guts Gallery, London, UK.  
 New Abstractions, Informality Gallery, London, UK.  
 Abstract Colour curated by Lewis Dalton Gilbert, Marlborough Gallery, London, UK.  
 2022 Durden & Ray Gallery L.A curated by Max Presneil, Los Angeles, UK.  
 2021 A Generous Space, curated by Matthew Burrows, Hastings Contemporary Gallery, Hastings, UK.  
 Now Now, Breach Miami, curated by Ed Broner, Miami, USA.  
 Kingsgate Project Space London, curated by Howard Bert, London, UK.  
 2020 Centrespace Gallery Bristol, Painting 2020, Bristol, UK.

- The Penwith Gallery St Ives, Associate members show, St Ives, UK.
- 2019 Paintworks Bristol, Another Time, Another Place, Bristol, UK.
- 2018 The old Biscuit Factory London, Types of Abstract, London, UK.
- 2017 Royal West Academy, Annual Open, Montreal, Canada.  
Summer Show, Lacey Contemporary London, London, UK.  
Interact Art Fair, London, Interact Art Fair, London, UK.
- 2016 Riverbank Gallery Newlyn Cornwall, Newlyn, UK.
- 2016 Summer show, Penwith Gallery St Ives Cornwall, St Ives, UK.
- 2016 Centre Space Bristol, Contemporary Painting, Bristol, UK.
- 2015 Public Hanging, Safe House Gallery London, London, UK.  
Somewhere to, The Island Gallery Bristol, Bristol, UK.
- 2014 Penwith Gallery, Penwith society of arts in Cornwall, UK.  
Homewarming, Tottenham Gallery London, London, UK.  
Forgotten Spaces, Espacio Gallery London, London, UK.  
ASC Studios, Open Studios, UK.  
Colour Me Stupid, Four Corners Gallery London, London, UK.
- 2013 Cyde & Co London, Clyde & Community Art project, London, UK.  
The Strand Gallery London, Seven Artists, London, UK.  
The Lloyd Gill Gallery London, The Future of Contemporary Art, London, UK.
- 2012 The Commune London, Roy's Salon Tea Party, London, UK.  
The Chelsea School of Art, Chelsea Degree Show, Chelsea, UK.
- 2011 Hitachi Consulting London, Hitachi Commission, London, UK.
- 2009 Tregye School of Art, Tregye School of Art Final Show, Carnon Downs UK.
- 2006 Lemon Street, Truro College Final Exhibition, Truro, UK.

## PRIZES & AWARDS

- 2013 Winner of The Clyde & Co Community Art project.
- 2011 Winner of The Brenda Landon Portrait Prize.  
Selected for Hitachi Fine Art Commission.
- 2009 Tregye School of Art, group exhibition, Tregye School of Art Final Show.
- 2006 Lemon Street, group exhibition, Truro College Final Exhibition.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- 2018 Bristol 24/7 what's on guide, Pecha Kucha  
<https://www.bristol247.com/whats-on/art/artists-talk/pecha-kucha-bristol-nights-volume-3/>
- 2014 Traction Magazine, Joe Warrior Walker on painting in the digital age  
<http://tractionmagazine.co.uk/post/74163073780/joe-warrior-walker>
- 2013 Clyde & Co Community Art project  
[http://1616.clydeco.vuturevx.com/joe-warrior-walker-\(untitled-2\)/](http://1616.clydeco.vuturevx.com/joe-warrior-walker-(untitled-2)/)
- Strand Gallery Exhibition, Seven Artists  
<http://thestrandgallery.wordpress.com/tag/joe-warrior-walker/>
- 2011 The Brenda Landon Portrait Prize  
[http://blpye.org.uk/image%20pages/2011image\\_pgs\\_and\\_images/2011.html](http://blpye.org.uk/image%20pages/2011image_pgs_and_images/2011.html)