

**JONATHAN CALLAN – VACATION**

19 March – 09 May, 2015

For his fourth solo exhibition at Hopstreet Gallery, Jonathan Callan (°1961 UK) shows a series of new works. For a number of years Callan has been making two dimensional pieces that may be referred to as drawings but are in fact images isolated on book pages with the surrounding imagery and context removed with sandpaper. Shadows are drawn back in with coloured pencil. This process allows Callan to turn a photograph into a drawing.

Each of the five series of 'drawings' are created as loose narratives. They are presented in groups, viewed from a distance they appear like musical notation, they have a sense of rhythm.

Whether we see paintings, street lights, arm chairs or a small group of people, they all seem to be transactions in the currency of introspection and seclusion.

The largest piece here is made from the pages of a book on English country houses, Callan isolated some of the paintings and removed everything else. It's partly a homage to Alan McCollum, a project where he photographed the TV every time a painting appeared in the background.

In two of the other pieces we see groups of tourists who are all walking away from the viewer into the pictorial and perhaps personal isolation that these works seem to play with. Some are from a book on scenic England the others from different books in other locations. Hence walking away in England and walking away in the rest of the world. They refer to Casper David Friedrichs often used device of placing a single figure looking away from the viewer into vast landscapes, the geography of which really refers to the space within. The title of the show- Vacation- refers to a world that is increasingly traversed and travelled and yet also a world where borders are now to be policed by populations in fear of migration, identity increasingly becoming defined in terms of location.

*Jonathan Callan 1961, studied at the Goldsmiths College and at the Slade School of Fine Arts in London. His work is included in numerous private collections including The Museum of Modern Art, New York, The British Museum, London, The Henry Moore Institute, South London Gallery, London, Whitworth Gallery, Manchester and The Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, High Museum Atlanta, Leopold Hirsch Museum de Düren, Princeton University Art Museum, Progressive Art Collection 'Ohio.*

**HAMZA HALLOUBI - NATURE MORTE**  
**Contemporary look of Giorgio Morandi**

The artist Hamza Halloubi (1982, Tangier) will be presenting his video *Nature Morte, 2013* in conjunction with the Giorgio Morandi retrospective. He presented this work at the Higher Institute for Fine Arts in Ghent and it is a reference to the works of Giorgio Morandi (1890-1964).

Morandi led a secluded life and he filled his time painting still lifes for a few of his friends. He worked during turbulent times in Italy and the two world wars and the Mussolini regime had a clearly visible impact on his work. The video *Nature Mort* takes the work of Morandi out of this enclosed context. The still lifes of Morandi are brought face to face with images from the agitated history of the 20th century in the form of a fictional book presentation.

Hamza Halloubi's work is very socially committed and offers an indirect view of social happenings in the world today such as the Arab spring or the European economic crisis. By creating this work about Morandi, Halloubi questions the social commitment of artists. Is it possible to dedicate a life to a purely aesthetic search that is completely cut off from political and social reality?

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*Hamza Halloubi (Morocco, 1982) studied at the HISK Higher Institute for Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium between 2012-14 after receiving his Master in Visual Arts. ENSAV la Cambre, Brussels (2004-2010). This year he started his residency period at the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam (2015/2016). Hamza Halloubi has had solo shows at KIOSK, Gent, Belgium (2014), La CENTRALE for contemporary art, Brussels, Belgium (2014), c-o-m-p-o-s-i-t-e, Brussels, Belgium (2014), Center for Contemporary Art, Malmö, Sweden (2014), BOZAR Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium (2013), Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium (2012), Monty ABN, Antwerp, Belgium (2011). Hamza Halloubi participated at the Marrakech Biennale, Morocco (2014), Nass Belgica, Botanique, Brussels, Belgium (2014), Portrait of the Artist, Works and References, curated by Katerina Gregos, HISK, Gent, Belgium (2013), Watou Kunstenfestival (2012), Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2012). Upcoming: solo show at Museum De Pont, Tilburg, Netherland (2015) and participation at the 5rd Thessaloniki Biennial, Thessaloniki, Greece.*

