

gallery/

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a n d r é   s t i t t

## d a r k   m a t t e r

9 may - 7 june 2014

gallery/ten presents *dark matter*, a much anticipated solo exhibition of 15 new abstract paintings by belfast-born painter andré stitt

although stitt's reputation was founded on his international career as a performance artist, he in fact trained as a painter in his home town of belfast from 1976-1980. in 2008 he was awarded a major creative wales award to develop his painting practice + has since radically changed his output to painting. his recent works are the result of his re-focusing on the materials, processes + performance of painting

this latest body of work centres around a repeated circular motif, the form of which suggests atoms, molecules + galaxies, hinting at that indefinable, encompassing dark matter of the universe. stitt puts forward the notion of energy + matter as 'a metaphor for something elusive, something that's having an impact on us but we can't see it. it's an understanding that we are something else.'

the work features prominent use of thick paint, layered + punctured with clusters of controlled circular sweeps revealing fluid colour behind the surface. traces of stitt's past as an internationally renowned performance artist is plain to see - the repetitive flick of the wrist, twist of the arm, the physical act of painting clear in the heavily impasto surface. stitt comments that the ritual of preparing canvas + paint, the movement of his body in looking, pacing, mark-making + evaluating, resembles a choreographed action - the action of painting

a n d r é   s t i t t

## d a r k   m a t t e r

9 mai - 7 mehefin 2014

cyflwyno gallery/ten *dark matter*, arddangosfa o 15 o baentiadau abstract gan yr artist andré stitt

er bod enw da stitt wedi'i sefydlu ar ei yrfa fel artist perfformio, hyfforddodd yn wreiddiol fel peintiwr ym melfast, ei dref enedigol, ym 1976-1980. yn 2008 dyfarnwyd iddo wobwr cymru greadigol i ddatblygu ei waith + ers hynny, peintio yw canolbwynt ei allbwn. mae ei waith diweddar yn ganlyniad y ffocws yma ar baentio - gyda'r deunyddiau, prosesau a'r perfformiad o beintio yn dod i'r amlwg

canolbwyntia'r corff diweddaraf yma o amgylch motiff crwn a ail-adroddir dro ar ôl tro, gan greu ffurfiau sy'n awgrymu atomau, moleciwlau + galaethau, yn pwyntio at y mater tywyll hwnnw sy'n anniffiniadwy + sy'n cwmpasu'r bydysawd. cyflwyno stitt y syniad o fater + ynni fel '...trosiad am rywbeth anodd dod o hyd iddo, rhywbeth sy'n cael effaith arnom ni ond ni allwn ei weld. mae'n rhan o'r dealltwriaeth bod mwy i ni fel pobl'

mae'r gwaith yn cynnwys defnydd amlwg o baent trwchus, haenau wedi'u treiddio gyda chlystyrau o gylchoedd i ddatgelu lliwiau hylif y tu ôl i'r wyneb. mae olion gorffennol stitt fel artist perfformio o fri yn amlwg i'w weld - yn fflic ailadroddus y arddwrn, troad y fraich, y weithred gorfforol o baentio yn glir yn wyneb impasto trwm y canfas. noda stitt bod y ddefod o baratoi y ganfas a'r paent, symudiad ei gorff yn yr edrych, y camu, gwneud marciau a'r gwerthuso yn debyg i goreograffi - y weithred o beintio









sleeve notes by the artist / nodiadau gan yr artist

the false identity of the general + the specific

dark matter: an astronomical term that indicates a presence that can only be inferred by its influence on observable objects

*dark matter* is a meditation on 'dark matter' as a metaphor for a position of existential crisis that seeks to consider human trace, material substance, space + time as inconclusive + perhaps not as it seems. these paintings make inferences + speculate on form, matter + presence; they set out from meticulous observation + are not deterred by a knowledge of how little we can know of the substance of things

paint is built up in layers + almost punctured by the brush creating void space that has allusions to molecular + systemic structure, dimensional membrane, networks; the micro, macro + cosmic. paint is utilised as a synthetic transmitter of experience that reflects the historical uncertainty of time + place; proposing contemporary genre painting as a transformative medium with redemptive potential

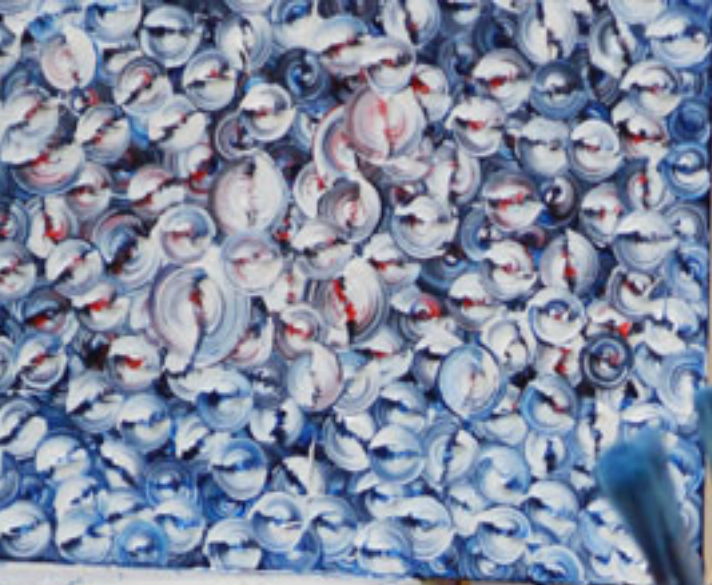
as such, these paintings occupy a liminal space that might be defined as ambiguous abstraction. they are non-figurative + abstract to allow for a pulling-in of the viewer to occur, in order that a certain state of mind, contemplation + intimate space might reveal itself - perhaps the space we are coming from and/or the space we may be moving toward

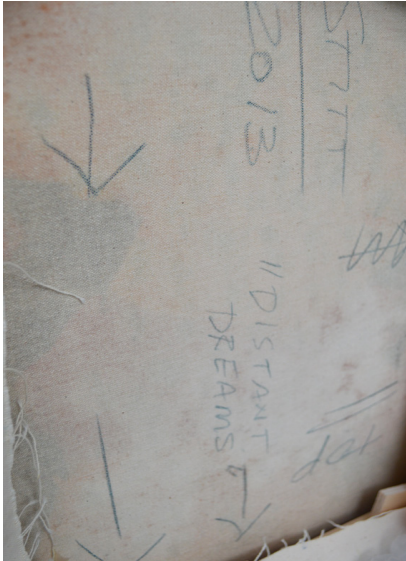
'neo-historical phase

all substance  
all periodic elements  
all particles  
all molecules  
all systems  
all wreckless  
all chaos  
all evolving  
all union  
all catastrophe  
all determined  
by self interest'

- andré stitt, 2014







distant dreams [details]  
oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500





**distant dreams**

oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500

boneyard resurrection

on salt black  
salt marsh thicket  
underground, over  
hollow earth  
hollow bones  
branchwood deposit  
sharing a dark corner  
of an alien dream, under  
the bonewood sky

- andré stitt





**bonewood thicket**

oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500



self-affirmation

oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500





**neutrons of buddahood**

oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500



postponement

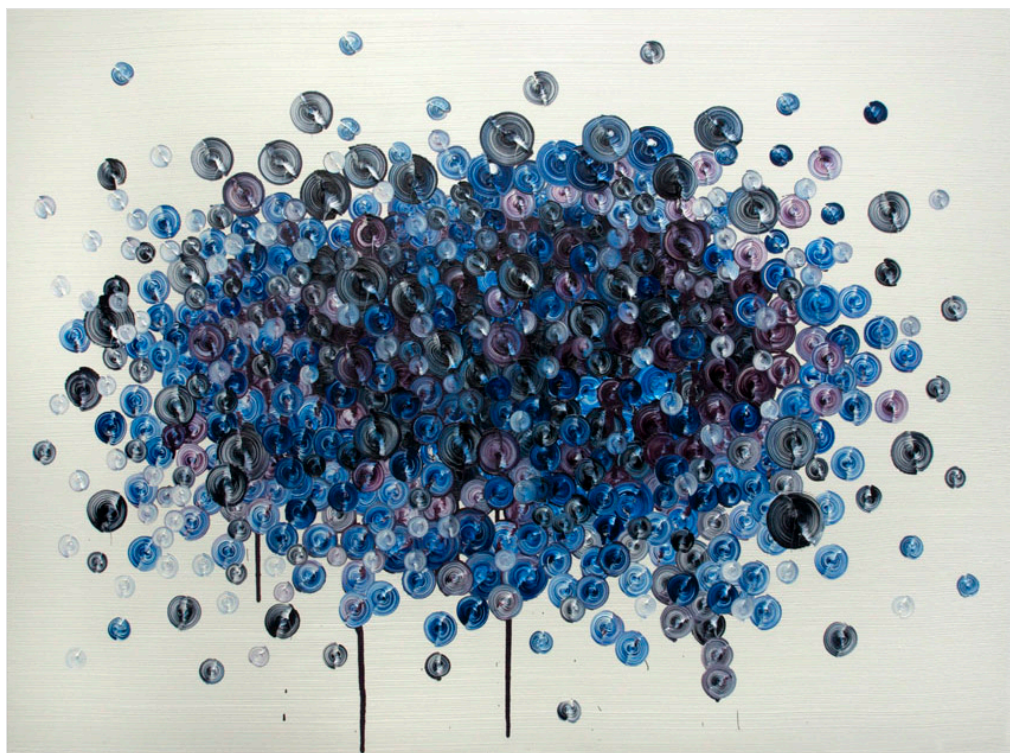
like a machine in the studio  
a pandemic; fever, impact, registration,  
annual memory, and  
tense surface, sensitive  
to difference, moving through  
space and time, gone  
soon enough; it's  
a moral problem  
keeping  
one's conscience  
present

- andré stitt



**postponement**

oil on canvas 2014 | 70 x 60cm | £2000



**the colony 1**

oil on canvas 2013 | 75 x 100cm | £2500





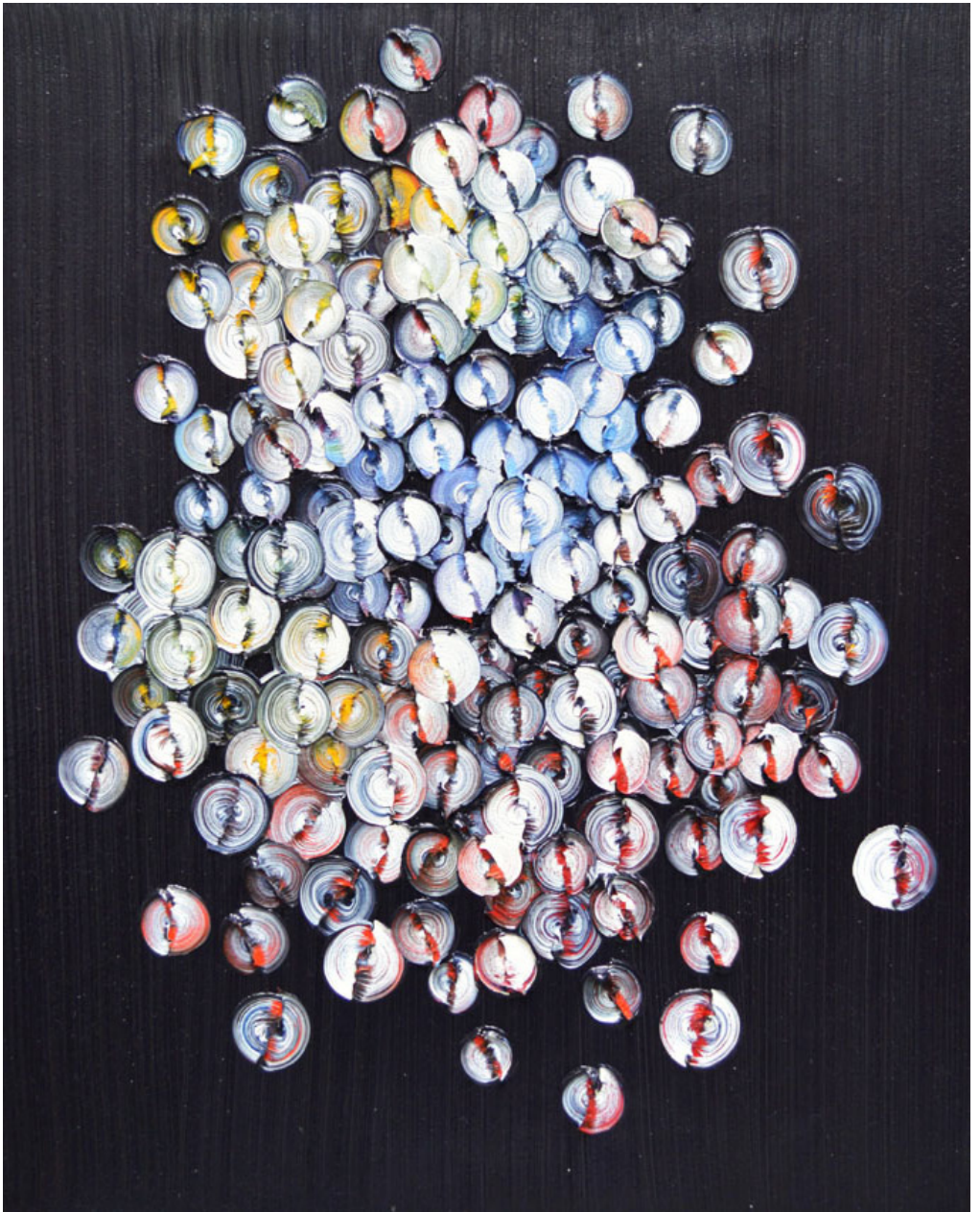
**the colony 2**

oil on canvas 2013 | 75 x 100cm | £2500

latitude field report:

lost coast, colony; spore silo, husk seeds sprout

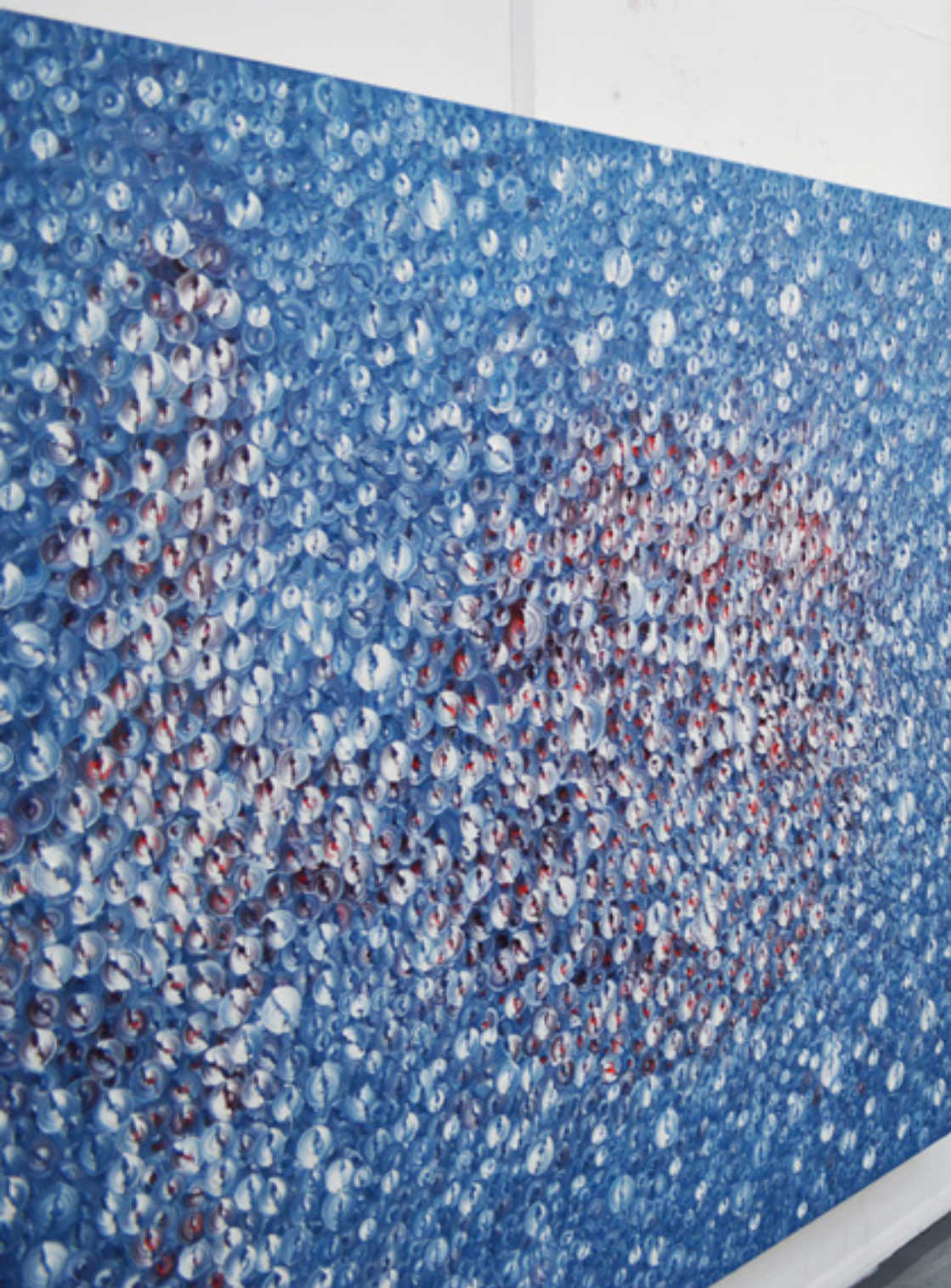
- andré stitt



spore silo

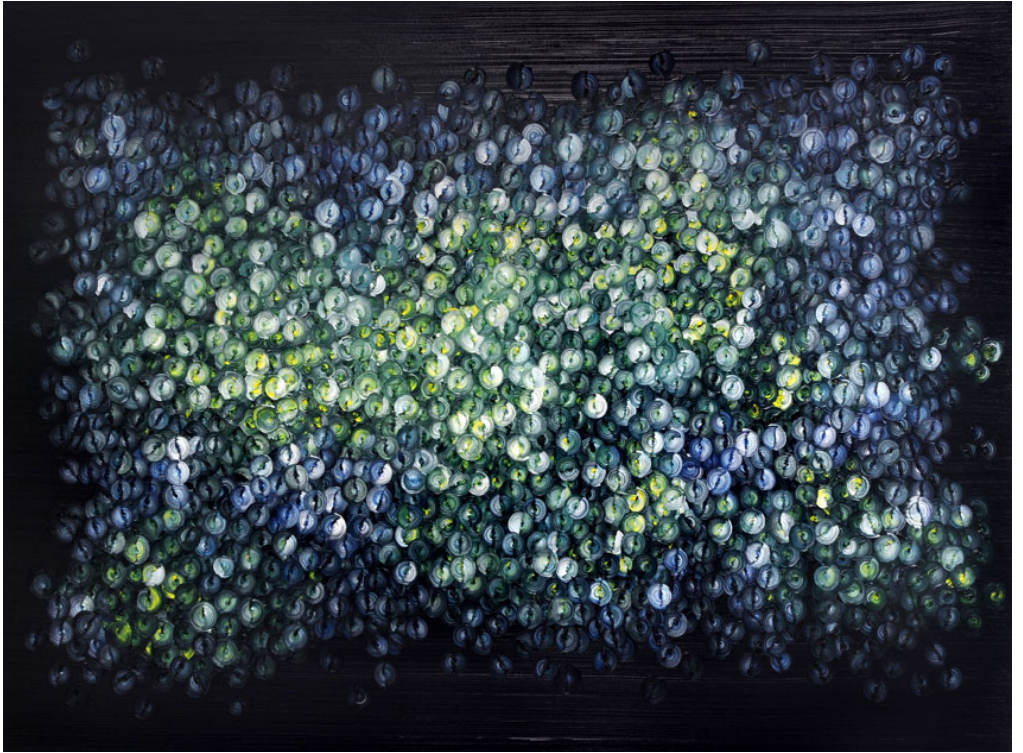
oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500







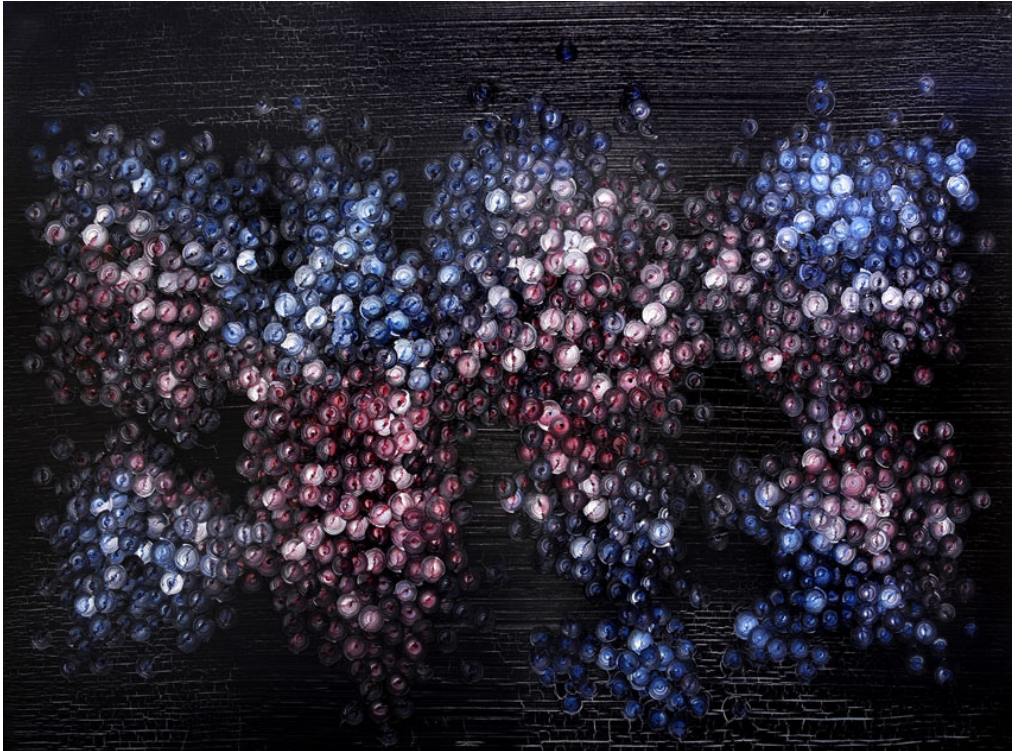




**Teakage**

oil + hammerite on canvas 2013 | 75 x 100cm | £2500





**abundance**

oil + hammerite on canvas 2013 | 75 x 100cm | £2500

void // fading

partial concealment  
partial drift  
night nails  
you learn a filthy seed  
exile from faith  
waste  
wasted  
instinct  
hazard  
death transit

- andré stitt



**night nails**

oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500





**cold comfort**  
oil on canvas 2014 | 170 x 120cm | £4000





deep storage

oil on linen 2013 | 170 x 150cm | £4500





**ketamine sun**  
oil on canvas 2014 | 50 x 40cm | £1500





the thaw  
oil on canvas 2014 | 60 x 50cm | £1750













paintings are there to be experienced, they are events. they are also to be meditated on and to be enjoyed by the senses, to be felt through the eye. paintings are not to be reasoned with, they are not to be understood, they are to be recognized

- john hoyland

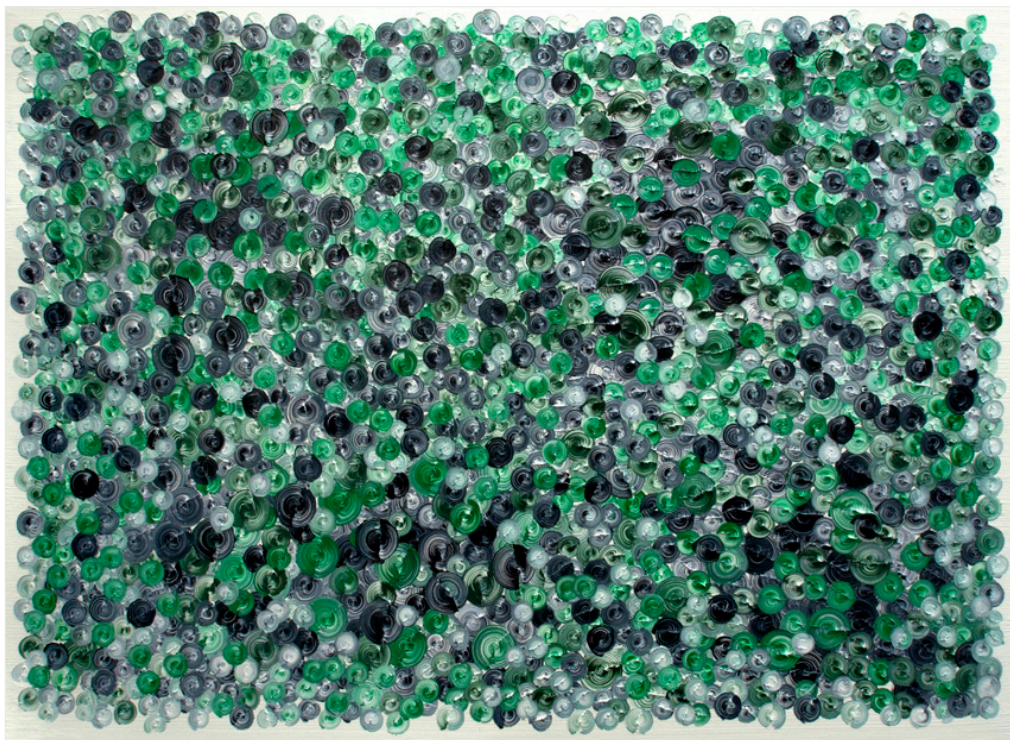


wallace stevens once remarked that a great poem defies intelligence  
almost completely, and  
ellsworth kelly once said:  
if you don't want to see one of my paintings you can't, and  
i say: so it is, your moral problem and mine

- andré stitt



## additional works



**field noise**

oil on canvas 2013 | 75 x 100cm | £2500



**phantom noise**

oil on canvas 2013 | 75 x 100cm | £25000





hive active high

oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500

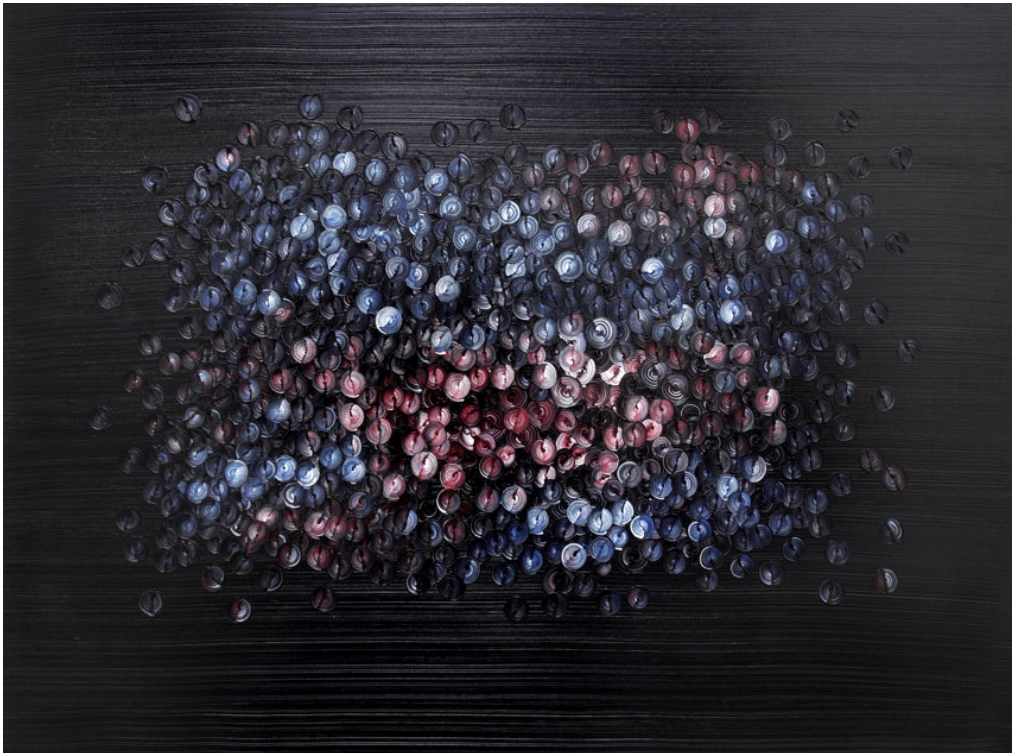




molecular eye gas

oil on canvas 2013 | 60 x 40cm | £1750





**back winds + soldier's things**

oil on canvas 2013 | 75 x 100cm | £2500



**mothership**

oil on canvas 2013 | 75 x 100cm | £2500





**volkspark**  
oil on canvas 2014 | 60 x 50cm | £1750





**homelight**

oil on canvas 2014 | 50 x 40cm | £1500





**meth sleeper**

oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500



spark particle expansion

oil on canvas 2013 | 50 x 40cm | £1500



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Studio Oil Color  
/ Base Paint  
1 LITRE

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BR.

BIBO

DA. GR. DE. A.



## a n d r é   s t i t t

born in belfast, n. ireland in 1958, stitt is considered one of europe's foremost performance + interdisciplinary artists. he is professor of performance + interdisciplinary art + is the director of the centre for fine art research at cardiff metropolitan university school of art + design, wales

stitt's move from performance art into painting in recent years has been a powerful process for the artist, through which he sees the 'paint as an energetic and transformative medium with redemptive potential affirming every action in the process as a performance of consciousness'

### selected solo exhibitions

- 2013 oriel myrddin, carmarthen, wales
- 2013 maesglas, aberteifi, wales
- 2013 leeds college of art gallery, leeds, england
- 2012 prog. vol.1, st david's hall, cardiff, wales
- 2011 spectral arc/vanishing point, st. paul st. gallery, auckland, new zealand
- 2011 triple aaa, dunedin school of art gallery, new zealand
- 2010 substance, gtgallery, belfast, northern ireland
- 2010 everybody knows this is nowhere, cardiff school of art, howard gardens gallery, cardiff, wales
- 2009 shiftwork, [collaboration with fritz welch], the lab, nyc, usa
- 2009 everybody knows this is nowhere, mcac, portadown, n. ireland
- 2008 substance, spacex, exeter, england
- 2005 reclamation, chapter, cardiff, wales
- 2004 cargo cult, the gallery, southwark park, london, england
- 2003 the bedford project, bca gallery, cecil higgins gallery, bedford, england
- 2003 white trash, grunt gallery, vancouver, canada
- 2002 south of no north, sirius arts centre, cobh, ireland
- 2002 legion, gregynog gallery, newtown, wales
- 2001 homework, le lieu, centre en art actuel, quebec, canada
- 2000 homework, howard gardens gallery, cardiff, wales

### awards

- 2012 national eisteddfod of wales highly commended prize
- 2006 ivor davis award, national eisteddfod, wales
- 2001 london arts - 2 major awards for 'span', london, england

## selected group exhibitions

- 2014 oriel davies open, newtown, wales
- 2014 art of the troubles, ulster museum, belfast, n.ireland
- 2013 welsh artist of the year, cardiff, wales
- 2013 summer/haf, gallery/ten, cardiff, wales
- 2012 warning! contemporary art, crescent art centre, belfast, n. ireland
- 2012 domestic, artank gallery, belfast, n. ireland
- 2012 welsh artist of the year, cardiff, wales
- 2012 beep, new painting, elysium gallery, swansea, wales
- 2012 national eisteddfod of wales
- 2012 summer show, hillsboro fine art, dublin, ireland
- 2012 john moores, walker gallery, liverpool, england
- 2011 out on the sea was a boat full of people singing + other stories, the lab gallery, dublin, ireland
- 2011 the deathanddada of everyday life, galerie suvi lehtinen, berlin, germany
- 2011 welsh artist of the year, st david's hall, cardiff, wales
- 2011 triple aaa, dunedin school of art gallery, new zealand
- 2011 national eisteddfod of wales, visual arts exhibition, wrexham, wales
- 2011 shelter, mostyn, llundudno, wales
- 2010 welsh artist of the year, st. davids hall, cardiff, wales
- 2010 national eisteddfod of wales visual arts exhibition, cardiff, wales
- 2010 taps:improvisations with paul burwell, matts gallery + dilston grove, london, england
- 2009 trace displaced, trace collective exhibition, artspace, sydney, australia
- 2008 asiatopia, bangkok art + culture centre, thailand
- 2007 aftermath, artspace, sydney, australia
- 2007 hiroschima art document, bank of japan, hiroschima, japan
- 2007 arcadia, tactile bosch, cardiff, wales
- 2007 anthology remixed, alt gallery, newcastle-upon-tyne, england
- 2006 the drawing centre, new york, usa
- 2006 airspace, stoke-on-trent, england
- 2005 reaction, 51st venice biennale, italy
- 2005 harlech biennale, wales
- 2005 airspace, stoke-on-trent, england
- 2003 international exhibitionist, curzon soho cinema, london, england



## a n d r é   s t i t t

ganwyd stitt ym melfast, gogledd iwerddon ym 1958, ac ystyrier yn un o artistiaid perfformiad mwyaf blaenllaw ewrop. mae'n athro perfformiad + celf rhyngddisgyblaethol ym mhrifysgol cymru, caerdydd + yn gyfarwyddwr y ganolfan ymchwil mewn celfyddyd gain yn ysgol gelf + chynllunio, prifysgol fetropolitan caerdydd, cymru

mae symud stitt o gelf perfformiad i baentio yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi bod yn broses pwerus iddo fel artist, a gwel y 'dealltwriaeth o baent fel cyfrwng bywiog + thrawsnewidiol sydd a photensial gwaredol yn cadarnhau pob gweithred yn y broses fel perfformiad o ymwybyddiaeth'

### arddangosfeydd undyn dethol

- 2013 oriel myrddin, caerfyrddin, cymru
- 2013 maesglas, aberteifi, cymru
- 2013 coleg + oriel gelf leeds, leeds, lloegr
- 2012 prog. vol.1, neuadd dewi sant, caerdydd, cymru
- 2011 spectral arc/vanishing point, oriel st. paul st., auckland, seland newydd
- 2011 triple aaa, oriel ysgol gelf dunedin, seland newydd
- 2010 substance, gtgallery, belfast, gogledd iwerddon
- 2010 everybody knows this is nowhere, ysgol gelf + chynllunio prifysgol cymru howard gardens, caerdydd, cymru
- 2009 shiftwork, [cydweithio a fritz welch], the lab, efrog newydd, uda
- 2009 everybody knows this is nowhere, mcac, portadown, g. iwerddon
- 2008 substance, spacex, exeter, lloegr
- 2005 reclamation, chapter, caerdydd, cymru
- 2004 cargo cult, the gallery, southwark park, llundain, lloegr
- 2003 the bedford project, bca gallery, cecil higgins gallery, bedford, lloegr
- 2003 white trash, grunt gallery, vancouver, canada
- 2002 south of no north, sirius arts centre, cobh, iwerddon
- 2002 legion, gregynog gallery, y drenewydd, cymru
- 2001 homework, le lieu, centre en art actuel, quebec, canada
- 2000 homework, oriel howard gardens, caerdydd, cymru

### gwobrau

- 2012 gwobr canmoliaeth uchel, eisteddfod genedlaethol cymru
- 2006 gwobr ivor davies, eisteddfod genedlaethol cymru
- 2001 london arts - 2 wobr am ei waith 'span', llundain, lloegr

## arddangosfeydd grwp dethol

- 2014 oriel davis open, y drenewydd, cymru
- 2014 art of the troubles, amgueddfa ulster, belfast, g. iwerddon
- 2013 artist y flwyddyn, neuadd dewi sant, caerdydd, cymru
- 2013 summer/haf, gallery/ten, caerdydd, cymru
- 2012 warning! contemporary art, crescent art centre, belfast, g. iwerddon
- 2012 domestic, artank gallery, belfast, g. iwerddon
- 2012 artist y flwyddyn, neuadd dewi sant, caerdydd, cymru
- 2012 beep, new painting, oriel elysium gallery, abertaw, cymru
- 2012 arddangosfa eisteddfod genedlaethol cymru
- 2012 sioe haf, hillsboro fine art, dulin, iwerddon
- 2012 john moores, walker gallery, lerpwl, lloegr
- 2011 out on the sea was a boat full of people singing + other stories, the lab gallery, dulin, iwerddon
- 2011 the deathanddada of everyday life, galerie suvi lehtinen, berlin, yr almaen
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- 2011 triple aaa, oriel ygsol gelf dunedin, seland newydd
- 2011 arddangosfa eisteddfod genedlaethol cymru
- 2011 shelter, mostyn, llundudno, cymru
- 2010 artist y flwyddyn, neuadd dewi sant, caerdydd, cymru
- 2010 arddangosfa eisteddfod genedlaethol cymru
- 2010 taps:improvisations with paul burwell, matts gallery + dilston grove, llundain, lloegr
- 2009 trace displaced, trace collective exhibition, artspace, sydney, awstralia
- 2008 asiatopia, canolfan gelfyddydau bangkok, gwlad thai
- 2007 aftermath, artspace, sydney, awstralia
- 2007 hiroshima art document, bank of japan, hiroshima, siapan
- 2007 arcadia, tactile bosch, caerdydd, cymru
- 2007 anthology remixed, alt gallery, newcastle-upon-tyne, lloegr
- 2006 the drawing centre, efrog newydd, unol dalaethau america
- 2006 airspace, stoke-on-trent, lloegr
- 2005 reaction, 51st venice biennale, yr eidal
- 2005 harlech biennale, cymru
- 2005 airspace, stoke-on-trent, lloegr
- 2003 international exhibitionist, curzon soho cinema, llundain, lloegr



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this catalogue is published on the occasion of the exhibition  
cyhoeddir y catalog hwn ar achlysur arddangosfa

**andré stitt**

**d a r k m a t t e r**

9 may - 7 june 2014  
9 mai - 7 mehefin 2014

gallery/ten | cardiff | wales  
gallery/ten | caerdydd | cymru

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cat gardiner

**in memory of / er cof am**  
kim fielding, monica ross, al ackerman, john starkey, jan  
swidzinski, jerzey beres

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