

Press Release | 08.11.2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chris Burns: KINGDOM

Exhibition Dates: 3 December 2024 - 29 January 2025

Aleph Contemporary, Stroud

Aleph Contemporary is thrilled to present "KINGDOM," a captivating exhibition by renowned figurative painter Chris Burns. Known for his graphic and obsessional style, Burns integrates the intricate process of etching into his studio practice, creating works that are deeply connected to the human condition. His iconoclastic approach to familiar subjects results in art that is both recognisable and refreshingly new.

"Kingdom" is a compelling series based on animals, initially conceived as derogatory self-portraits featuring farm animals like mules and pigs. Over a decade in the making, this series has evolved through etching and dry point techniques, transforming the original drawings into powerful, stoic figures. These animals, illuminated as if caught in a spotlight, appear less as wildlife in their natural habitat and more as creatures in a mug shot—some guilty, some accused, some tortured, forlorn, and lost, with a few maintaining their innocence. This series remains rooted in its origins of self-portraiture, offering a profound commentary on the human condition through the lens of the animal kingdom.

About the Gallery:

Aleph Contemporary is a Cotswold-based contemporary art gallery with an international roster of emerging and mid-career artists. Inspired by Jorge Luis Borges's tale, "The Aleph," the gallery reflects a commitment to dialogue, invention, and the value of experiencing and understanding art today. Guided by trust, integrity, and fair play, Aleph Contemporary aims to present new art to a global audience of discerning collectors.

About Chris Burns:

Chris Burns has been a practicing artist for over 35 years, living and working in London for the past twenty. Originally from Normanton, West Yorkshire, he studied Fine Art at Brighton and Leeds. Burns exhibits internationally and is featured in numerous collections. His work addresses an internal deficit, creating imagery that feels as though it has always existed, made of elements colliding purposefully.

For more information, interviews, or high-resolution images, please contact:

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Email: nicholas@alephcontemporary.com or info@alephcontemporary.com

Gallery and Mailing Address:

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Chris Burns in his studio, London

CHRIS BURNS

KINGDOM



KINGDOM

CHRIS BURNS

May 2023

KINGDOM

Chris Burns is primarily a figurative painter who uses the process of etching as an integral part of his studio practice. His style is graphic, obsessional, umbilically connected to the human condition. Burns has an iconoclast's approach to very familiar subject matter; a series of work may develop over many years, stripped back to its bare bones and rebuilt through hundreds of studies till a subject has been rewired, still familiar, yet completely new.

'Kingdom' is a series of work by Chris, based on animals. Begun as derogatory self-portraits (usually farm animals such as mules and pigs), the series developed over a decade or more. Through etching and dry point, the original drawings now take on a powerful stoic presence as though spot lit; seemingly caught unsuspectedly. But these creatures are less like a depiction of wildlife in its natural environment, more like beasts in mug shot; some guilty, some accused, some tortured, forlorn and lost, even a few are innocent. Perhaps this series hasn't strayed too far from its origins in self-portraiture.

KINGDOM

27 aquatint and dry point copper plate etchings printed on
400gsm zerker German etching rag paper

Signed edition of 50

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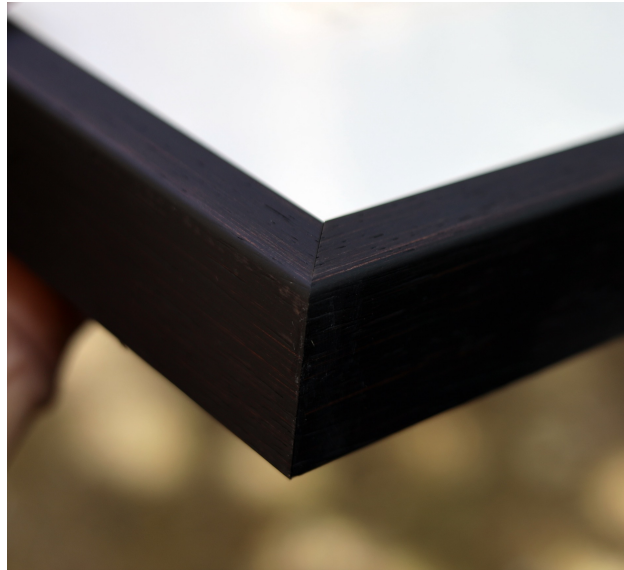
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FRAMING



Italian deep moulding in matt black/brown finish
with dovetail mitres

Deep 4-ply conservation mount

Glazing in non-reflective 'Artglass' AR70 with UV
protection.

...with thanks

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