

YAVUZ GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE | 13 APRIL 2017

IRL

Opening: 6 May 2017, 4-7pm
Artist Tour: 6 May 2017, 4:30-5pm
On view: 6 May to 18 June 2017

Yavuz Gallery is proud to present *IRL*, the first solo exhibition of **André Hemer** in Southeast Asia. One of the most sought after artists of his generation, Hemer (originally from New Zealand) will be exhibiting a new series of his signature-style canvas works that continue the artist's exploration into the role of painting in a world dominated by digital media and the slippages in meaning between object and image.

Hemer's practice is motivated by a longstanding interest in the complexity of seeing in the contemporary world. As a result of drastic developments in technology and digital networks over the past few decades, we are likely to encounter everyday objects as de-materialised digital forms as much as their physical manifestations. According to the artist, "the characteristics of an image are no longer principally visual, but embedded with metadata of source, description, and properties. We are caught between versions of things and are relearning to navigate a world in which the physical act of a one-to-one viewing is diminished. A contemporary world shaped by networked forms has led to new phenomenological experiences. Painting in particular asks us what is it to see now?"

Hemer's works address and amalgamate these different ways of looking and negotiating distance within a single canvas. His painting process combines elements of both digital experience and traditional painting, in a modern technique akin to 'en plein air' painting in which a flat-bed scanner is used to capture images of various outdoor landscapes and forms. The combination of light sources from the LED light of the scanner below and of fading sunlight create images that look digital but are not produced in a digital manner. These resulting images are then reworked and layered with spray, acrylic, impasto and oil, creating dynamic and spatially complex compositions that meld and blur the line between the painted and the digital image. The combination of these techniques embodies what the artist calls a 'new representation', a term coined to describe his paintings, and the way images are created and consumed today.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hemer has earned international recognition, which includes being on the cover of Thames & Hudson's *100 Painters of Tomorrow* (2014), a publication uncovering the world's most promising painters from more than 30 countries. He was also named as one of *The Guardian's* top 10 "Stars of Tomorrow: the greatest painters you haven't heard of yet". In 2016 he was awarded the prestigious New Zealand Art Foundation New Generation Award and the Wallace Arts Trust Paramount Award, which includes a six-month residency at International Studio and Curatorial Program, New York. He has exhibited widely in New Zealand, Australia and internationally. Recent exhibitions include *André Hemer - Paintings 2005-2015*, Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua City, New Zealand (2015); *Utopian Days*, curated by Martin Schulze and Hailey Grenet, Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea (2014); and *Critical Intent*, curated by Gary Sangster and Fan Lin, Guangzhou Art Center, Guangzhou, China (2014). His work is in the collections of Taiwan Museum of Art; Te Manawa Museum (New Zealand); Christchurch Art Gallery (New

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Zealand); and University of Canterbury (New Zealand), amongst others. *IRL* is his first solo exhibition with Yavuz Gallery.

An illustrated catalogue, written by independent curator and arts writer Owen Craven, will accompany the exhibition.

For inquiries and more information, please contact Caryn Quek at caryn@yavuzgallery.com or tel: +65 6734 3262.

Selected Works



IRL #2, #1, 2017, acrylic and pigment on canvas, 180 x 270 cm (diptych)

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IRL #4, 2017, acrylic and pigment on canvas, 160 x 120 cm



IRL #6, 2017, acrylic and pigment on canvas, 120 x 90 cm

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