



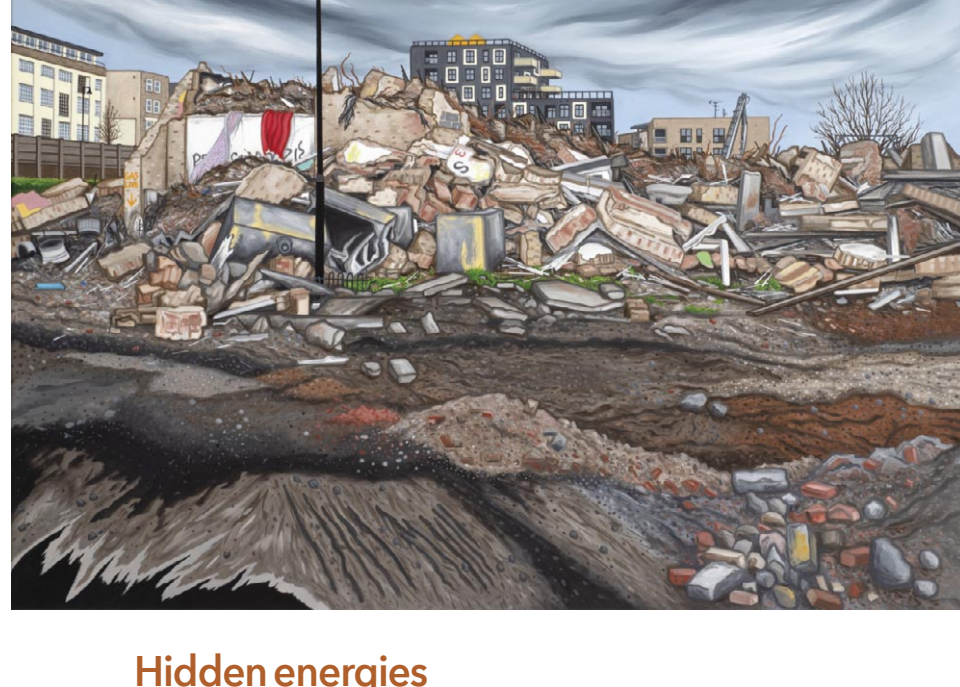
Future Ghosts Stephen Harwood

30th October–14th December 2024

BENJAMIN RHODES ARTS

ABOVE Wick Road, 2024, oil on canvas, 80 x 70 cm

BELOW Marian Court, Demolished, 2024, oil on canvas, 85 x 100 cm



Hidden energies

It is the best of times, it is the worst of times. The flows of capital produce an endless churn of redevelopment and regeneration with which we must reconcile ourselves if we are to live in a city. We thereby become conditioned into seeing these things as a natural part of our environment and this has the effect of dulling the senses to their presence. By revealing the hidden energies already encoded in the construction of these buildings, and by attending to the accumulation of graffiti and advertising, Harwood returns a sense of human (and spectral) agency to urban alienation. In these paintings, the vandals who tag walls are brought to the same level as advertising

posters, each laying down their markers in the environment; like wild dogs pissing the extent of their territory. Indeed, even the sun burning orange through darkened clouds joins in the dance of colour.

Districts rise and fall; transience is all. Art sees ghosts, those of the future as well as the past. Stephen Harwood draws out these presences and invites us to see the world as a wholly living and vibrant, if flawed, thing. The act of painting grants the possibility of redemption and re-enchantment.

Cormac Pentecost, 2024

BELOW Marian Court 'Future Ghosts' II, 2024, oil on canvas, 55 x 70 cm

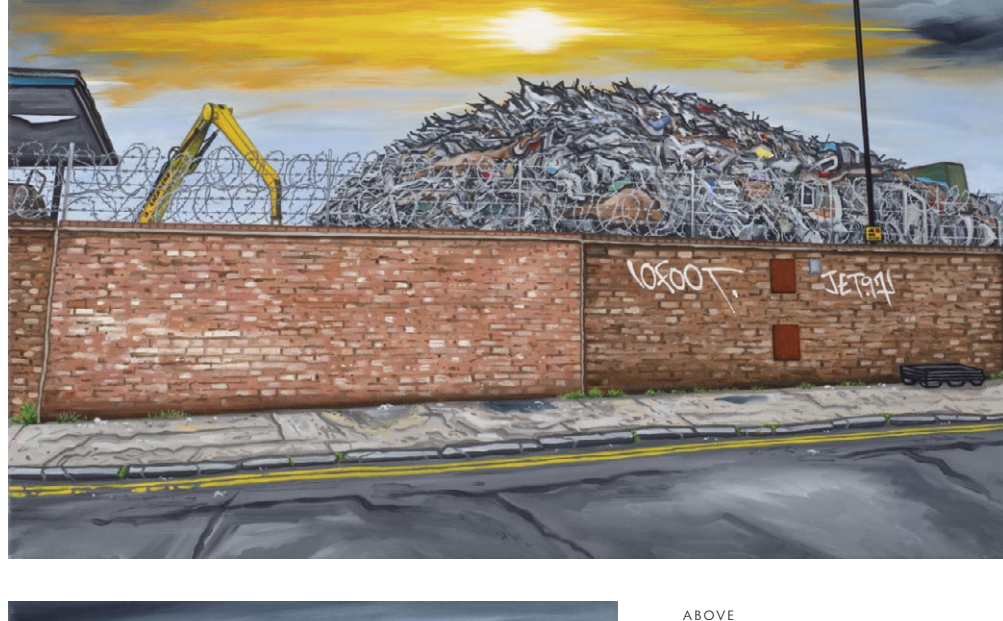
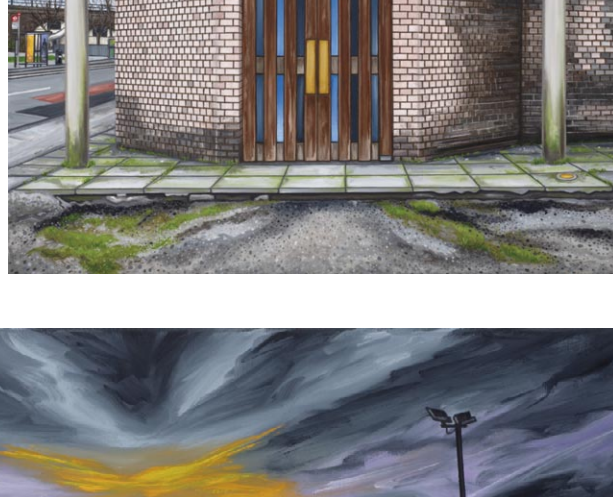


Future ghosts

Stephen Harwood is a necessary witness. He haunts that which is most haunted. A covert pathology, a certain show of downriver blight, externalised. And made hard, vivid. He stays within the tradition of tradition: absent figures remembered and re-forgotten by their missing outlines. Soliciting a point of vantage in our constantly degrading and renewing landscape. Future ghosts.

Iain Sinclair, 2024

RIGHT St Paul's, Bow Common, 2024, oil on canvas, 55 x 70 cm



ABOVE Sunset, Canning Town, 2023, oil on canvas, 50 x 65 cm



LEFT Three Colts Lane, 2022, carbon pencil on paper, 42 x 59 cm



LEFT Tower Hamlets Cemetery, Park, Mile End, 2023, oil on canvas, 70 x 55 cm

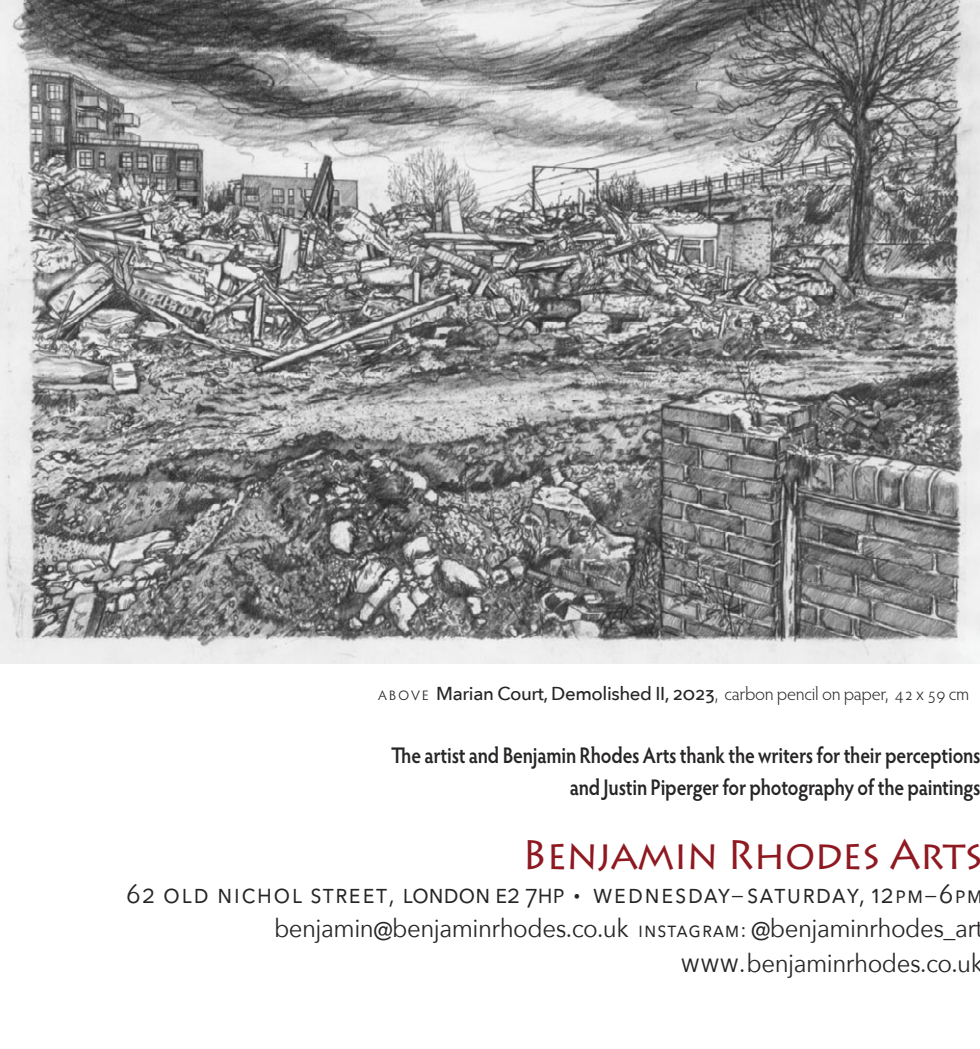


LEFT Marian Court, Demolished II, 2023, carbon pencil on paper, 42 x 59 cm

Stephen Harwood

MA Central St Martins, 2010

Stephen has exhibited widely in the UK and Europe over the last 30 years. There have been recent solo exhibitions at studio 1.1 here in Shoreditch where he has also curated shows and elsewhere. His artwork is held in private collections worldwide. His main studio is in London.



ABOVE Marian Court, Demolished II, 2023, carbon pencil on paper, 42 x 59 cm

The artist and Benjamin Rhodes Arts thank the writers for their perceptions and Justin Piperger for photography of the paintings

BENJAMIN RHODES ARTS

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