



Love



Faithless



Happy Happy

23 years in the making

Bluemoon Gallery in Camden Road kicks off its calendar of events for 2014 with Dan Baldwin's 23 Years exhibition

Bluemoon Gallery's first exhibition for 2014 is from highly acclaimed British artist Dan Baldwin who bridges the gap between figurative and abstract painting to create a landscape that simultaneously reflects reality, the power of imagination and the private working of his mind.

Here we find out about his relationship with his mediums, his followers and why he has chosen to come to Tunbridge Wells.

Q. Dan, one of the things I noticed about you at your recent show 'Fragile in London' was your total engagement with the followers of your art, whether it was an interview with the media, an interested buyer, or an onlooker. It is also apparent from the iconography that is prevalent in your paintings that you're a great mediator on life. Many artists appear to put a barrier around themselves, maybe for self preservation, not you. Could you comment on this?

A. I have built a loyal following that I value highly. When I meet people at my shows, it's like my family – I recognise many faces spanning back 10 years or so having followed my career through every new collection. I see everything linked to life in my art – I'm attracted to imagery, and object, feeling, and emotion – my work

changes quite dramatically from piece to piece, but the themes always connect – it's about getting a feeling from the overall composition. I suppose I am quite solitary and meditative in my work – I spend most of the time in my own head which may be true of many artists. I do however have a barrier up in a way, as I believe you need to keep some distance as an artist, and let art speak to the viewer.

Q. In 2014 you are going to do a number of print shows around the UK. How important has the print side of your work become?

A. Print is very important for my journey – it was around 2004 when a friend came into the video shop where I was working in Brighton. I wasn't yet a full-time artist but he had shown my art to his boss who wanted to make prints for me. I had no idea really where we would sell them, but soon realised the importance of the limited edition.

We started with editions of 50 – digital giclees with gloss layers, then hand applied layers, mixed media objects, and bullet holes which reflected the original. We had fun with them, using plastic flies from a joke shop on one, vintage pound notes on another, distressed fabric flags on one, hand-made crucifix on another – every print was unique.

Q. One of the first shows of the year is at Bluemoon Gallery. Why there?

A. Iaysha who runs and owns Bluemoon has had a close working relationship with my publisher CCA, she also showcases a great mix of modern British and contemporary artists in print, ranging from Sir Terry Frost and Sandra Blow, to Peter Blake, Damien Hirst, Warhol, Grayson Perry and Banksy.

Being an artist herself she understands the relationship a painter has to their prints and has such enthusiasm in presenting their work. The print shows are a great way of showcasing the quality of print and educating people into my art without it being a major solo show. I am looking forward to meeting the people of Tunbridge Wells as I have fond memories of previous visits to this wonderful town.

• Dan Baldwin's exhibition is being held between 8th February and 1st March at the Bluemoon Gallery. There is also the chance to meet Dan Baldwin for a book signing on 22nd March at 2pm. 



For more information, visit 18 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 2PT, call 01892 540100, or visit www.bluemoongallery.co.uk