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**BLAISE DRUMMOND**  
***A LIQUID NOTE IN SPRING***

16.12.2022 – 11.02.2023

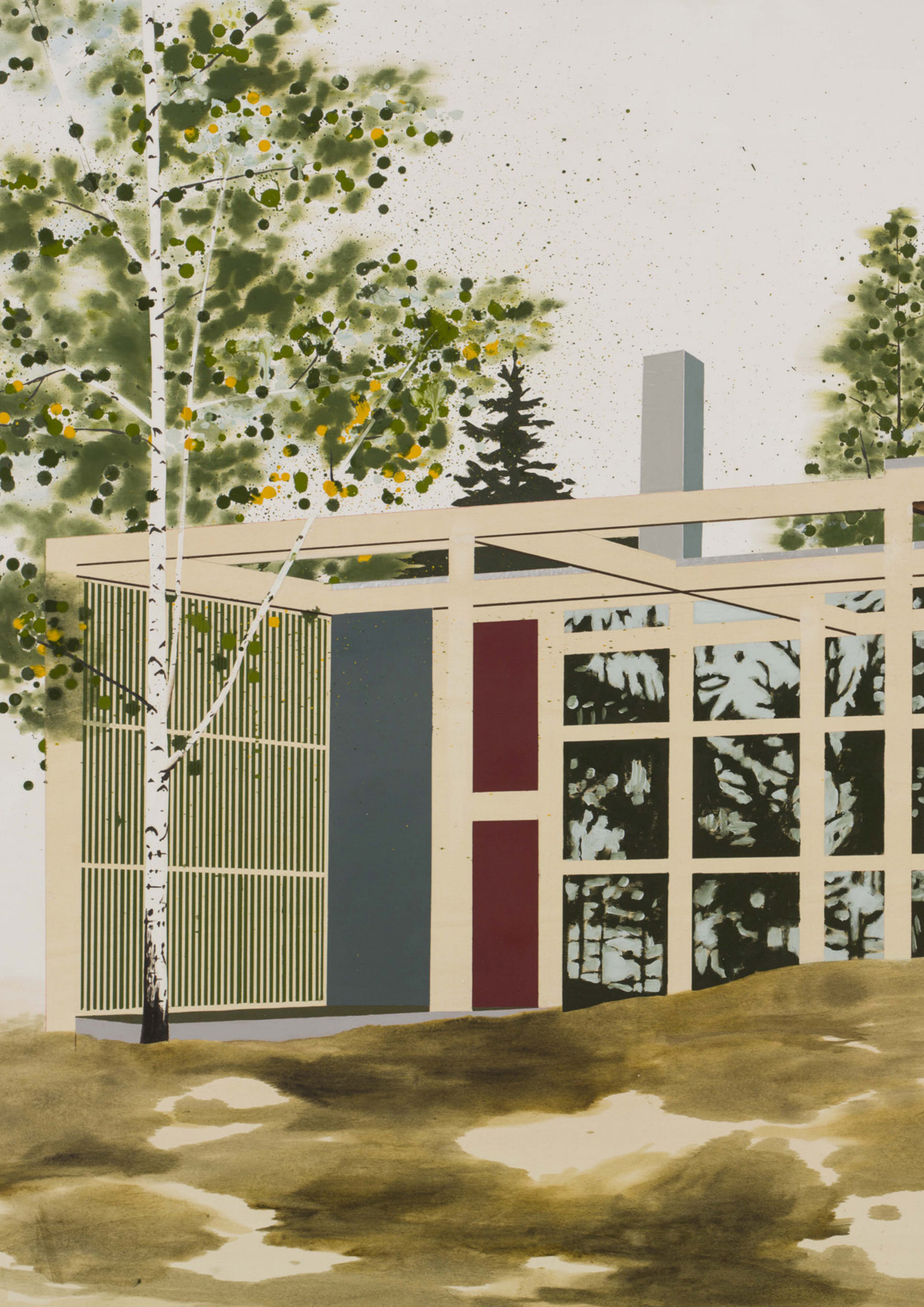


























## Blaise Drummond: From magic lantern to manifest destiny

Cartoon epics and the dramatised wild frontier permeate Blaise Drummond's latest works. It might be cowboy versus Indian in one or remembered film versus reality in another. Overall, these pieces play out over a shrinking natural plain as history and myth wither under the heat of the sun.

Landscape and portrait are two world views domesticated into our smartphone world but borrowed from art history and art practice. Drummond plays with subtle portraits of landscapes – both historical and fictional. We are not talking about aspect ratio, rather, about a way in which terrain is captured. His art is a landgrab but of aesthetics not people displacement.

Look more closely at the clues. Pieces of graph paper litter that landscape, like environmental threats cast back into a mythic past of how the West was won. Dangerous confetti from future societies which serves as tinder for identity democracy. Which has politicised the planet into green party politics. The damage done, we leave it decay. Look at that patch of graph paper and its signal lines of latitude and longitude. It is the atlas on which Drummond paints. It is the grid across which lone characters move – by horse, by boat. Or not at all. The point being that in some images of constructed habitat, humans are strikingly AWOL. Grid lines intersect from east to west and from north to south: maps for landscapes and maps for portraits.

His linear verticals clash with nature's heroes, the trees. These lines cross swords. They fence in some ordered co-existence. It has never been humans versus nature but rather humans and nature in continued negotiation. But humans are very much acting in bad faith.

A lonely mountain is an elephantine marvel, a repository of wisdom that never forgets. A man rows on some future rising waters, elevated by the tide of a world which doesn't care. A straggly flower begs for a lost man's attention on a white landscape. But for the green trees in the background and the snappy attire of the sitter, the place could be a frozen wilderness, the lake sheeted in ice. The man is Johnny Appleseed. Walt Whitman. Henry David Thoreau. Some sage environmentalist. Or some scout engineer out to industrialise the landscape with train tracks for commerce. Or some contemplative poet seeking the weapon of verse with which to protect nature from destruction; with which to immortalise the eternal, fading outdoors.

Drummond's paintings don't preach. They observe. They glimpse out through bars and railings from modernist dwelling structures and present us all as ultimately caged. Perhaps to protect us from nature. Perhaps to defend that nature from us as, imprisoned, we serve out our remaining sentence on this sweet Earth as our time ineluctably runs out.

It's a native thing. Guns and feathers and manes. Some sort of wigwam mash-up: wallpaper pasted across the great terrains as Indians and horses and simple headdresses allude to the pictures on nursery walls.

A sailor with Soviet overtones and an Indian, feather in cap, wields a revolver astride a horse; he appears to have jumped ship from some Potemkin vessel or some Potemkin village. Or is he a Gaultier perfume bottle? Or a Kenneth Anger extra? From sea to shore he rides, witlessly vicious, a goon of the machine of war, oblivious to a mosaiced crocodile which could have crawled from the Gaudi art park or a Damien Hirst jewellery display cabinet. Or floated into your city centre on a disaster flood. Vengeful displaced beasts wait in the sewers pumped up with flushed antibiotics and other pollutants.

Drummond's images belong to a magic lantern in a Victorian playroom. They are of harm and charm. Watch the "heroes" ride in tight revolutions around your wall, the cowboys and Indians, circling the wagons, the horse already enslaved as a manifest destiny is fulfilled.

John Fleming, writer and journalist, Dublin, December 2022

## Exhibited artworks list

### Blaise Drummond *Indians of the Great Plains, 2022*

Distemper, collage and oil on canvas  
190 × 270 cm (74 13/16 × 106 5/16 in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : BD221106  
**Selling price : 24 000 euros without taxes**

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### Blaise Drummond *Moduli 225 (No.8), 2022*

Oil and collage on poplar  
122 × 161 cm (48 × 63 3/8 in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : BD220901  
**Selling price : 18 000 euros without taxes**

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### Blaise Drummond *Atlantic, 2022*

Distemper and oil on poplar  
122 × 161 cm (48 × 63 3/8 in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : BD221101  
**Selling price : 18 000 euros without taxes**

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### Blaise Drummond *No Title Yet (Pippin), 2022*

Distemper, collage, oil and beeswax on poplar  
122 × 161 cm (48 × 63 3/8 in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : BD221001  
**Selling price : 18 000 euros without taxes**

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### Blaise Drummond *The Farm (for Molly Gregory), 2019*

Collage and oil on birch ply  
61 × 83 cm (24 × 32 11/16 in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : BD190702  
**Selling price : 8 500 euros without taxes**

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## Blaise Drummond *The Boathouses, 2022*

Distemper and collage on canvas  
130 × 170 cm (51 3/16 × 66 15/16 in)

Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris

Inv. No. : BD221105

**Selling price : 18 500 euros without taxes**

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## Blaise Drummond *The Sculptor's Walk, 2022*

Distemper on canvas

64 × 84 cm ( 25 3/16 × 33 1/16 in)

Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris

Inv. No. : BD220302

**Selling price : 8 500 euros without taxes**

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## Blaise Drummond *Moduli 225 (No.7), 2022*

Oil, beeswax and collage on poplar  
162 × 122 cm (63 3/4 × 48 in)

Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris

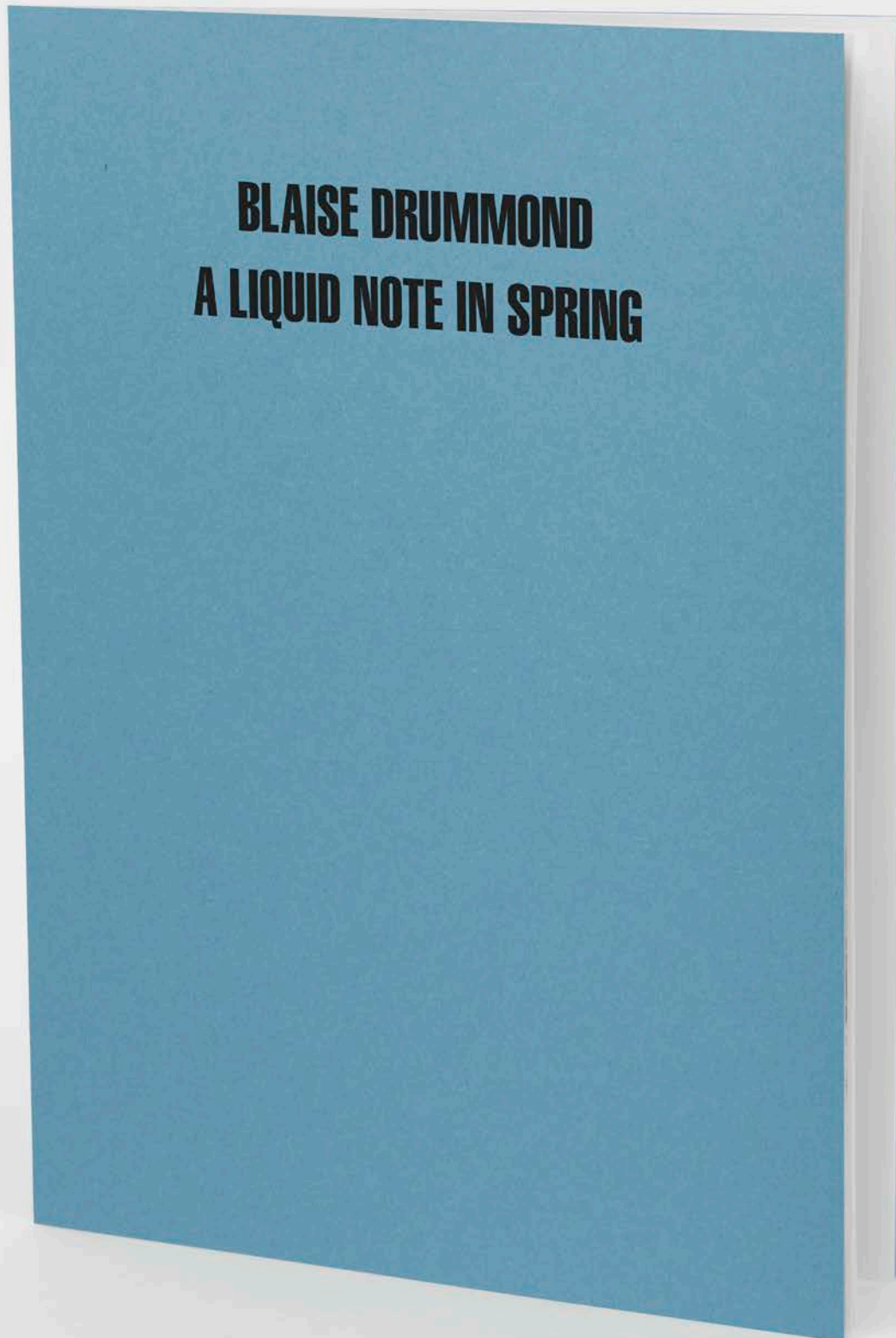
Inv. No. : BD220702

**Selling price : 18 000 euros without taxes**

© ADAGP, Paris. Photo Tim Durham, courtesy Loevenbruck, Paris.







## New publication

### Blaise Drummond, A Liquid Note in Spring

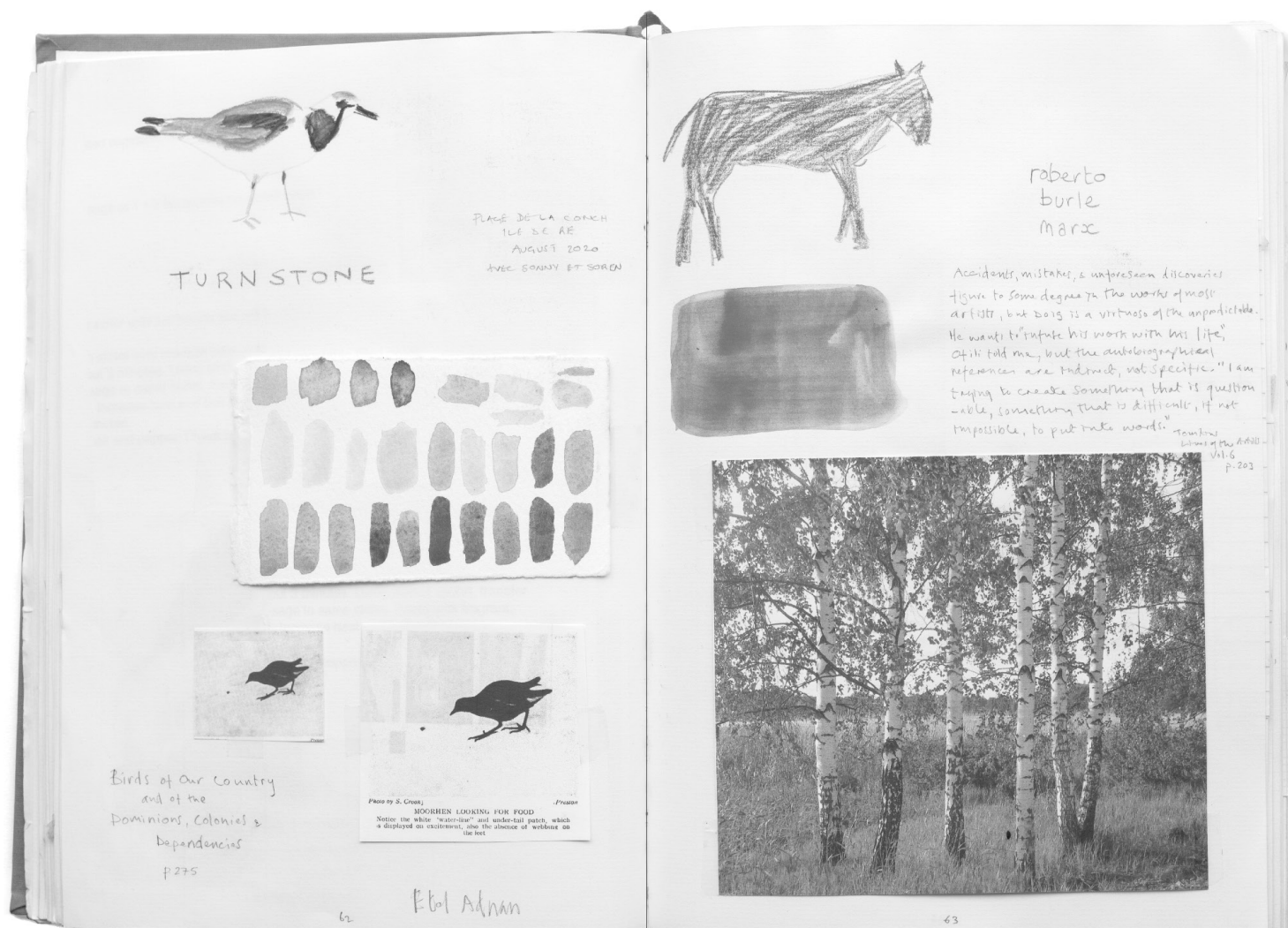
Paris, Éditions Loevenbruck

Writers Blaise Drummond, John Fleming

Graphic design Sylvia Tournerie

Available from 22 December 2022

This exhibition booklet brings together the text "Blaise Drummond: From the magic lantern to manifest destiny" by John Fleming, excerpts from the artist's notebook which reveal his sources of inspiration and multiple references, both musical, artistic, philosophical as well as literary, reproductions of seven unpublished works, as well as a portrait of the artist in his studio in Ballymahon, County Longford (Ireland), a photograph by Tim Durham taken in December 2022.





Blaise Drummond dans son atelier à Ballymahon, Irlande, 2022.  
Photo Tim Durham, courtesy Loevenbruck, Paris.

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# Blaise Drummond

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Born: 1967, Liverpool, United Kingdom. Lives and works: Ireland.

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## Representation

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Galerie Loevenbruck	Paris	FR
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## Educational background

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1989	MA Philosophy and Classical Art, University of Edinburgh	GB
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1994	BA Fine Art & History of Art ( 1st Class), National College of Art and Design	Dublin	IE
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1998	MA Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art	London	GB
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## Public and private collections

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Fondation Audika	Paris	FR
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Fondation Louis Vuitton	Paris	FR
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Fonds d'art contemporain - Paris Collections	Paris	FR
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Musée d'arts de Nantes	Nantes	FR
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National Gallery of Ireland	Dublin	IE
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## Solo exhibitions

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2022	"A Liquid Note in Spring"	Galerie Loevenbruck	Paris	FR
		16.12.2022 – 11.02.2023		

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2018	"A History of Hope"	Galerie Loevenbruck	Paris	FR
		01.12.2018 – 26.01.2019		

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2015	"La lumière du Nord [North Light] "	Galerie Loevenbruck	Paris	FR
		10.04.2015 – 16.05.2015		

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2013	"Great Nature"	Conrads	Düsseldorf	DE
		07.09.2013 – 19.10.2013		

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2011	"Towards a Unified Theory of Everything"	Galerie Loevenbruck	Paris	FR
		21.10.2011 – 03.12.2011		

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2010	"Blaise Drummond - Folk Songs of North America"	Galleri Bo Bjerggaard	Copenhagen	DK
		16.04.2010 – 26.06.2010		

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2009	"Blaise Drummond"	Kunstmuseen / Haus Lange 18.10.2009 – 17.01.2010	Krefeld	DE
2008	"Rest and Be Thankful"	Galerie Loevenbruck 12.12.2008 – 31.01.2009	Paris	FR
2008	"The Best I Can Do"	Bloom Projects - Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum 31.05.2008 – 10.08.2008	Santa Barbara, CA, USA	US
2008	"One Day the Earth Shall be Ours"	Aliceday 07.03.2008 – 19.04.2008	Bruxelles	BE
2007	"The Bright Hours"	Galerie Conrads 07.09.2007 – 20.10.2007	Düsseldorf	DE
2007	"Things To Make & Do"	Rubicon Gallery 31.05.2007 – 07.07.2007	Dublin	IE
2007	"Lake Shore Drive"	Mary Goldman Gallery 28.04.2007 – 16.06.2007	Los Angeles	US
2006	"Forest Park"	Perugi Art Contemporanea 30.09.2006 – 20.11.2006	Padoue	IT
2006	"A Field Guide"	Galerie Loevenbruck 30.06.2006 – 09.09.2006	Paris	FR
2006	"Blaise Drummond"	Musée de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix 01.04.2006 – 18.06.2006	Les Sables d'Olonne	FR
2005	"Western Parkway"	Blancpain-Stepczynski Art contemporain 23.09.2005 – 29.10.2005	Genève	CH
2005	"Adventures in contentment"	Aliceday 16.04.2005 – 21.05.2005	Brussels	BE
2005	"Its So Hard to be a Saint in the City"	Rubicon gallery 18.09.2004 – 30.10.2004	Dublin	IE
2004	"Garden City"	Galerie Loevenbruck 18.09.2004 – 30.10.2004	Paris	FR
2004	Art Brussels	Solo Show 01.04.2004 – 05.04.2004	Belgique	BE
2003	"What to Look for in Summer"	Rubicon Gallery 16.04.2003 – 10.05.2003	Dublin	IE
2002	"Stedelijk Museum"	Aalst 01.01.2002 – 01.02.2002	Belgique	BE
2000	"A Poetic Geography of Five Continents"	Castlefield Gallery 03.01.2000 – 03.02.2000	Manchester	GB
2000	"City v Country"	Rubicon Gallery 02.01.2000 – 02.02.2000	Dublin	IE