

R H O D E S

RUSHING IN THE FIELDS IAN RAYER-SMITH

Opening Reception: Thursday 4th April 6-8pm
Exhibition dates: 5th – 27th April



Ian Rayer-Smith, Freedom in the Fields #2, 2023, Oil on two Wooden Panels, 193 x 226 cm

RHODES is thrilled to present 'Rushing in the Fields', the latest exhibition by the acclaimed abstract painter, Ian Rayer-Smith. Renowned for his dynamic brushwork, rich textures, and vibrant colours, Rayer-Smith pushes the boundaries of contemporary Abstract Expressionism, inviting viewers on a journey of exploration and introspection. This eagerly awaited collection showcases a series of new works in a bold continuation and expansion of Rayer-Smith's celebrated artistic style.

'Rushing in the Fields' embodies the movement and freedom that is key to Rayer-Smith's artistic practice. 'No plan, no intent, no finish', his works evolve as he paints. Each day he comes to his studio, he enters without premeditation or tasks to complete, but allows himself total freedom to spontaneously create, an ethos which comes through in the final energy of his works. We see some shapes and colour combinations become repeated motifs, as he explains the works are influenced by one another as he works on several paintings simultaneously.

Although fundamentally abstract in style, Rayer-Smith likes to make some reference points to reality in his works. A calm sky-blue background or a vibrant green streak across the bottom of the work makes the viewer think of our natural and recognisable world. By then adding completely abstracted elements, he allows the abstract forms to become surreal. Our minds cannot help but attempt to understand the scene we are looking at, allowing our imaginations to fill with possible explanations. Unlike some abstract painters, Rayer-Smith leans into these explanations, he wants to hear what the viewer interprets the works to be.

‘Rushing in the Fields’ also reflects Rayer-Smith’s ongoing dialogue with the materials of his craft. His technique, involving the layering and removing of paint, mirrors the thematic layering of memory and emotion, creating a textured, almost sculptural quality to the works. This tactile aspect of the paintings encourages a closer, more intimate engagement with the art, compelling viewers to consider the layers of meaning and experience that lie beneath the surface.

Ian Rayer-Smith’s work has been proved popular among collectors and the art world globally. His paintings have been featured in solo and group exhibitions across Europe and the United States, including prestigious venues such as the Saatchi Gallery in London and Art Basel Miami.

In ‘Rushing in the Fields’, Ian Rayer-Smith elevates Abstract Expressionism to new heights, weaving a vivid tapestry of spontaneity, emotion, and boundless creativity. Through dynamic brushwork and a masterful play of textures and colours, Rayer-Smith invites audiences into a realm where abstract and recognizable forms converge, sparking imagination and introspection. As viewers immerse themselves in Rayer-Smith’s world, they are reminded of the power of abstract art to evoke deep, personal responses.



Ian Rayer-Smith, Engulfed in Curiosity, 2024
Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 100 cm



Ian Rayer-Smith, Trampling Over Tranquility, 2024
Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 100 cm

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