TICKNER McLUSKY BELL & YOUNG

GALLERY 46

LN

‘Dad’

David Tucker

Curated by Martin J Tickner

at GALLERY46

3RD - 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

CATALOGUE

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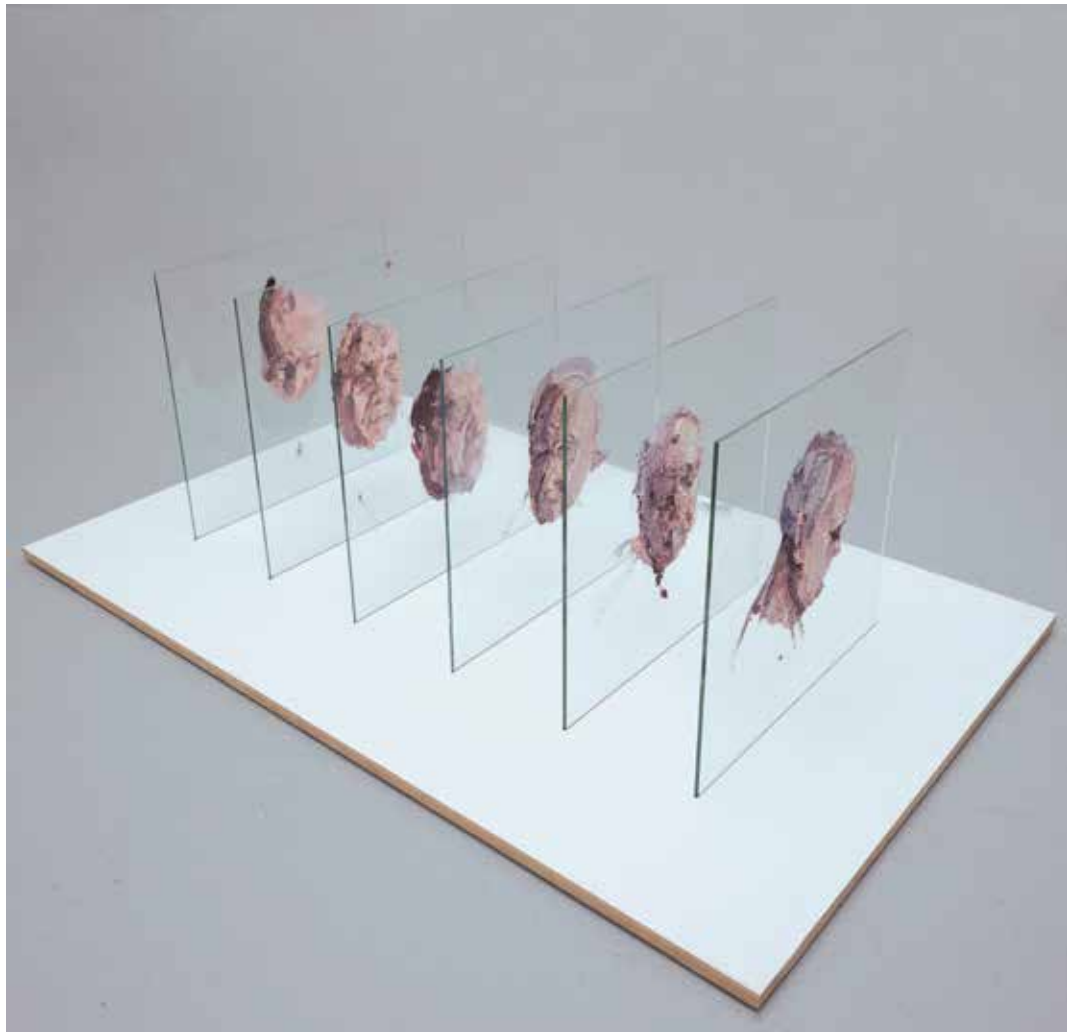
“Discovering the space between destruction and re-creation of oneself.” David Tucker



‘Evanesce’ 1 to 6, 2019-20
Oil on glass
47 x 47 x .5 cm
£POA

‘Evanesce’ 1 to 6, 2019-20
Oil on glass
47 x 47 x .5 cm
£POA

Reverse

‘Distill 1’ (self-portrait), 2021
Oil on glass
46 x 47 x .5 cm
£2,000

‘Distill 2’ (self-portrait), 2021
Oil on glass
46 x 47 x .5 cm
£2,000

‘Distill 3’ (self-portrait), 2021
Oil on glass
46 x 47 x .5 cm
£2,000

‘Distill 1,2,3’ (self-portrait), 2021
Oil on glass
46 x 47 x .5 cm
£2,000 *per portrait*

‘Vessels 1’, 2021
Oil on glass
34.5 x 32.5 x 7.5 cm
£1,950

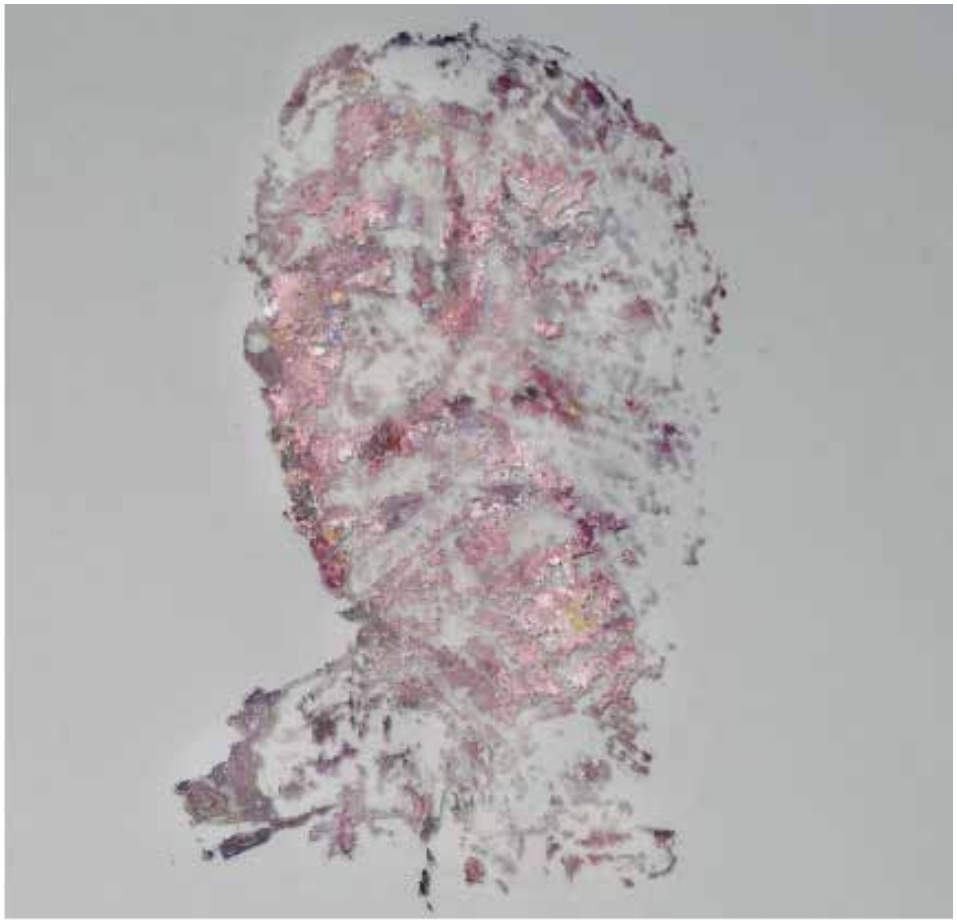
Reverse

‘Vessels 2’ (self-portrait), 2021
Oil on glass
34.5 x 32.5 x 7.5 cm
£1,950

Reverse

‘Red & Blue’, 2022
Oil on canvas
34.5 x 34.5 x 10 cm
Reverse side (Crystal growth)
£1,950

Reverse



‘Deconstruction 1’, 2021
Oil on glass
50 x 50 x 12 cm
£2,000

Detail

‘Deconstruction 2’ (self-portrait), 2021
Oil on glass
50 x 50 x 12cm
£2,000

'Deconstruction 3' (self-portrait), 2021
Oil on glass
114 x 124 x 5 cm
£3,800

‘Reconstruction 1’, 2022
Recycled oil sculpture
26 x 19 x 16 cm
£4,500

‘Reconstruction 2’, 2022
Recycled oil sculpture
50 x 27 x 15 cm
£4,500

‘Reconstruction 3’ (self-portrait), 2022
Recycled oil sculpture
45 x 40 x 20 cm
£4,500

‘Vessels 3’ (self-portrait), 2022
Oil on etched glass
64 x 64 x 5 cm
£2,200

‘Tempering 1’ (self-portrait), 2022
Oil on canvas
50 x 50 x 5 cm
£1,500

‘Tempering 2’ (self-portrait), 2022
Oil on canvas
30 x 30 x 5 cm
£1,500

‘Tempering 3’ (self-portrait), 2022
Oil on canvas
30 x 30 x 5 cm
£1,500

‘Tempering 4’ (self-portrait), 2022
Oil on canvas
50 x 50 x 5 cm
£1,500

‘Tempering 5’ (self-portrait), 2022
Oil on canvas
30 x 30 x 5 cm
£1,500

‘Veins & Vessels’, 2020
1 of 9
Etched print
30 x 30 x 5 cm
£350 *per print*

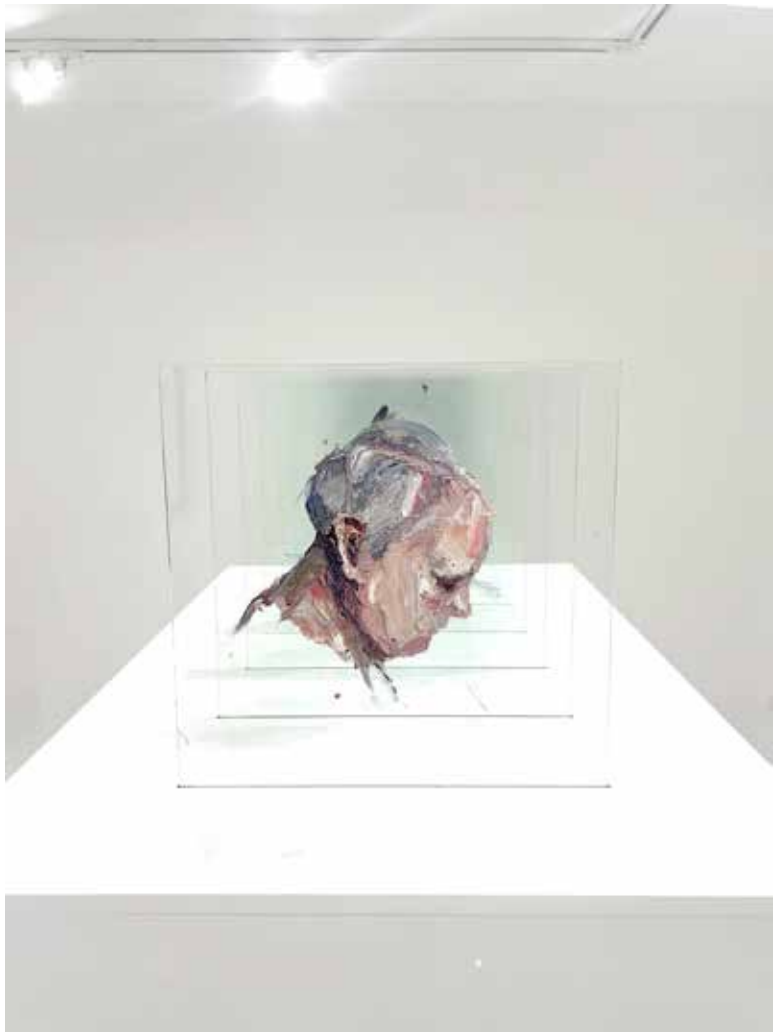
‘Light Bringer 1, 2, 3’, 2023
Latex and charcoal on paper
68 x 53 x 3 cm
£950 *per portrait*

‘Light Bringer 4, 5, 6’, 2023
Latex and charcoal on paper
68 x 53 x 3 cm
£950 *per portrait*

‘Darkened Oils 1’, 2023
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 x 5 cm
£4,500

‘Darkened Oils 2’, 2023
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 x 5 cm
£4,500

‘Darkened Oils 3’, 2023
Oil on canvas
50 x 50 x 5 cm
£4,500



'Dad' The exhibition explores the artist's encounter with dementia, which he experienced closely while he lived with and cared for his father over a three-year period. Most people will have encountered this illness directly or tangentially, and Tucker's work offers something which is on one level intensely personal, but also universal, revealing through predominantly self portraiture, and touching on portraits of his father, the effects gradual loss can take both on the sufferer and those closest to them.

The exhibition is the culmination of four year's work. When he began, the focus was solely on his father, who passed away in 2022, one week after his seventy-eighth birthday, having first shown signs of the illness aged only sixty-one. However, it developed into something more with the onset of lockdown in 2020, which resulted in the artist metaphorically *'putting the mirrors up on the walls'* of his studio, a process of self-evaluation that led to him contemplating himself not just as a son to a father with Alzheimer's, but as a father to his own two children. These meditations are meshed into the fabric of each of the thirty-plus artworks that have been brought together for this show, and in the case of the oil sculptures almost literally. The presentation is not only brave in its undertaking, but also experimental in its execution.

The mainstay for this show is oil paint on glass, but it is also on canvas, along with crystals, latex and charcoal, visceral mediums which the artist harnesses to powerful effect. '**Evanesce**', 2019, is typical. Echoing the work of **Frank Auerbach** and **Lucian Freud**, Tucker buildsan unflinching 3-dimensional portrait of his father with thick layers of oil applied impasto onto six glass panels. His self portraits are presented in the same way, such as to give a sense of the subject floating in time, creating a spatial relationship that transcends his paint on canvas. Additionally, when seen from the other side, we see a second portrait, suggesting a glimpse of the hidden self. Meanwhile, the latex and charcoal work, entitled '**The Light Bringers**', 2023, have the quality of movement, the heads turning and twisting, as if in prayer. The '**Darkened Oil series**', with their sculptural quality of thickly applied paint that builds off and breaks the parameters of the square canvas, have equal intensity, drawing the viewer close to see the portrait created by the dark palette.

Some of the self-portraits were destroyed and reconstituted, which saw Tucker scraping his own image off the glass then taking the dried slabs of paint and forcing them into a mesh which he had impressed his face into. These *'recycled oil portraits'* are not, as with those on glass, noticeably him, but literal and metaphysical reconstructions configured from his flesh tones.

Martin J Tickner
Artistic Director GALLERY46
'David Tucker's paintings go far and beyond a testament to his own encounter with dementia, radiating out to anyone who has, through this illness, been impelled to experience the difficult role reversal of becoming parent to a parent. His paintings and sculptures reveal an artist willing to break through the barriers painting can impose to offer something beyond literal interpretation, in his case charting the process of grieving brought on by ambivalent loss.'

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To discuss artworks and prices contact Martin J Tickner

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