

PRESS RELEASE
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For immediate release

LOCAL ARTIST LOOKS EAST AND WEST

TO AND FRO

A reflection on the treaty ports of Canton

In this solo exhibition of paintings and prints at the Peacock Gallery, Maiden Erlegh School, the Reading-based artist Robert Fitzmaurice will present work inspired by the treaty ports of Canton. His surreal imagery often considers the human condition, however in this show historical characters and events add an extra layer of meaning and invite us to reflect upon identity and the human cost of trade when profit is the primary consideration.

The title of the exhibition references these contrasting themes as well as the regular exchanges between figuration and abstraction. Talking about this show Robert says: *"I have been visiting Hong Kong regularly since 2005. Over this time I have learnt about the history of trade between the east and west, and the terrible impact of the Opium Wars. This episode in China's history and its relationship with the West, especially regarding empire and exploitation, provides dark counterpoint to the colourful and exotic nature of the period."*

The exhibition will take place at The Peacock Gallery, Maiden Erlegh School, Reading
April 22 to 11 May 2017

Opening hours: weekdays 15:00-16:30, Saturdays 10:00-15:00

Opening View: Saturday 22 April, 13:00-15:00

NOTES TO EDITORS

Robert Fitzmaurice is a studio member of OpenHand OpenSpace in Reading. Last year he exhibited work in London (including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition), New York and New Mexico.

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