

Daniel MacCarthy
Ship of Fools



Meakin + Parsons
x Hannah Payne

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We are very pleased to present Ship of Fools, a solo exhibition by Daniel MacCarthy, opening on February 3rd at Meakin + Parsons, Oxford, in collaboration with Hannah Payne.

MacCarthy's paintings portray nettles glowing in headlights, figures toiling by torch light, man and nature within the eerie aspect of the crepuscule. These are not nocturnes in the traditional romantic sense, here Samuel Palmer's bucolic reclining figures are bathed in artificial light.

Metaphor and allegory have always been part of the language in which Daniel MacCarthy's paintings. MacCarthy's symbolic language, depicting nettles and brambles, electric light and shovels, boats and parasols, symbolise hope and anxiety, entropy, the climate crisis and our relationship to our natural surroundings. Often this language becomes deliberately obscure with the intention that meaning is felt more than understood.

"Weeds have always struck me as being analogous for the tenacity of nature and in that I see a redemptive quality, a glimpse of a hopeful future, even if man-made societies are in ruins. So too there is an aspect to these 'unwanted' plants that speaks to a duality inherent within all things. They bring to mind pain and neglect, as well as summer and renewal."

The exhibition title Ship of Fools refers to Plato's allegory for bad governance and a nod to the Hieronymus Bosch painting of the same name. This political and philosophical back drop sits somewhere to one side of works that are as much about a love of riverbanks and warm summer nights as the societal schism in our dealings with the natural world and the consequent emotional fallout.

MacCarthy studied at the Royal Drawing School in London and is a recipient of the Sidney Nolan Trust Resident Artist Award. His work is in the collections of Stella McCartney, London; Dumfries House, Scotland; The Peninsula Hotel, London (selected by Peter Marino); The Moritz-Heyman Collection, Tuscany; The Branca Collection in Milan. He has exhibited with Liliya Art Gallery, London; Hastings Contemporary; Galera San Soda, Milan.

Daniel McCarthy | Ship of Fools
at Meakin + Parsons x Hannah Payne,

Curated by Kristian Day

4 February – 4 March, 2023.

Private View: Friday 3 February 6 - 8pm

Location: Meakin + Parsons x Hannah Payne, 16 North Parade Avenue, Oxford, OX2 6LX

Gallery open times: Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 6 pm, Saturdays 10 am – 4 pm. Sunday - Monday, closed.











Demiurge, 2022-23
oil on canvas
183 x 160 cm





Ship of Fools, 2022-23
oil on canvas
160 x 180 cm



Parasol, 2023
oil on canvas
112 x 107 cm



Swan Song, 2023
oil on canvas
122 x 112 cm



Blue Crystal Fire, 2022
oil on canvas
180 x 100 cm





Cruel Nature, 2021
oil on canvas
120 x 90 cm



Nettles, 2021
oil on canvas
120 x 90 cm



Riverbank, 2023
oil on canvas
86 x 81 cm



Laser, 2023
oil on canvas
60 x 85 cm



Dandelion, 2022
oil on hessian
61 x 51 cm



Brambles, 2023
oil on canvas
30 x 26 cm



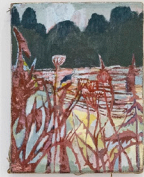
Untitled (figure reading), 2023
oil on canvas
30 x 26 cm

Celeste, 2023
oil on canvas
30 x 26 cm





Flowers, 2023
oil on canvas
30 x 26 cm





Kristian Day