



JOE GRIEVE | BETWEEN PLACE & TIME

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Joe Grieve (born 1997) holds a First Class Honours Degree from the City & Guilds Art School in London. Grieve currently lives and works in London, UK.

While studying at the City & Guilds Art School, Grieve held his first solo exhibition at the Artisan Space in 2019, and contributed paintings to the group exhibition *Into the Cosmere* in 2021. After graduating in 2022, Grieve held his first solo exhibition *Somewhere Near Perception* with the BWG Gallery. *Between Place & Time* is Grieve's second solo exhibition with the BWG Gallery.

In 2022 Grieve attended the Blackwater Valley Residency in Ireland and Coulston Artist Residency in Scotland. During the last twelve months Grieve has visited eight countries, in order to perceptually immerse himself in the 'natural wildscapes' that have inspired his latest supernatural surreal paintings.

Grieve's work is held in the Nixon Collection, the Cao Collection and numerous private collections across Europe, South & North America.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My most recent body of work is a culmination of my recent exploration into the land that surrounds me. I find myself instinctively drawn toward landscape painting because of the emotional reverence and painterly freedom it enables. My process is a balance between instinctive, reactive movements and slower, heavily considered marks. The laying of paint, the push and pull between fast and slow, results in the varied expressions of the landscape.

I am interested in the social politics of land, specifically the fight for increased 'Right-to-roam' laws in the UK. 92% of the UK's countryside and 97% of its rivers are private.

This disconnection astounds me, and the effects of this seep into my work. I see my paintings as fragmentations of complete landscapes as if I've had to use what's left of the land publicly available and create the rest in my mind. Looking at the land through an abstract lens, I'm more interested in communicating the chaos rather than recreating what the eye sees. I think of this distorted reality as an analogy of our damning social climate and our ever-growing disengagement from nature. Despite this distortion, I wish for the painted scenes to be beautiful, mirroring my feelings toward the natural world.

A constant focus in my work is sunlight, both the representation of it in the scenes and the effects it has on nature. The fleeting moments of sunrise and sunset are often the most beautiful and ethereal; this is something I aim to capture in my work.

My work could be considered as a modern interpretation of the *Lebensreform* movement of the mid-19th Century, and the 20th Century *back-to-nature* movement. I endeavour to explore the urgency of returning to more natural ways, responding to the consequences industrialisation has borne and the negative impact we as a race are having on the planet.

There has never been a more vital time to understand the importance of nature.