

THE OTHER SIDE | JOE GRIEVE | EXHIBITION TEXT

Bringing Harmony To Opposites

East Lothian's Colstoun House presents *The Other Side*, Joe Grieve's first Scottish Solo Exhibition, welcoming the viewer to explore the dualistic expressions the artist finds within the natural world and humanities' physical and metaphysical imprint upon it. Hosted in The Coach House, it marks the first in a series of annual Colstoun Arts exhibitions.

The Other Side, comprising a series of new oil paintings, some involving a drawn figurative compositional charcoal underlayer, consider Grieve's immersive relationship with, and memories of, landscapes within the British Isles, and their corruption and fragmentation over his lifetime.

Grieve presents visible and non-visible networks of life which make up our natural reality. Two worlds; a surface landscape, and a distorted psychedelic network more closely connected to nature buried beneath the earth, blurring the line between the two. Grieve's work visually connects opposites, merging the peace and fury of peaks and depths, mountains and oceans, foregrounds and horizons, and tangible and intangible currents, notable in the rhythmic oceans and skylines of his painting.

The energy in Grieve's painting comes from conflicts between representation and abstraction, reducing natural detail in certain paintings to better explore the sensations and feelings of landscapes, with sharper explorations of dark and light and fore and background shadowing to present depth, and display his extensive use of layering. This contrasts directly with his more representative, and novel, inclusion of manmade structures dwarfed by the warped perspective of the surrounding landscape. These figurative elements epitomise the relationship between the human reality of destruction and expansion, beneath the Earth's ultimate power and deific grandeur.

Grieves' work pays no reverence to national borders or other socioeconomic constructs, instead offering painterly appreciation for the harmony and escape these landscapes offer, whilst highlighting their fragility. The paintings in this exhibition invite us to witness Grieve's perceived realities of surreal, spiritual, and philosophical landscapes, homed in relatable environments. *The Other Side* sees Grieve's understanding of the fragmentation of land grow and give him space to expand his practical techniques and subjective supernatural surrealities, to discover the other side.

Jack Trodd