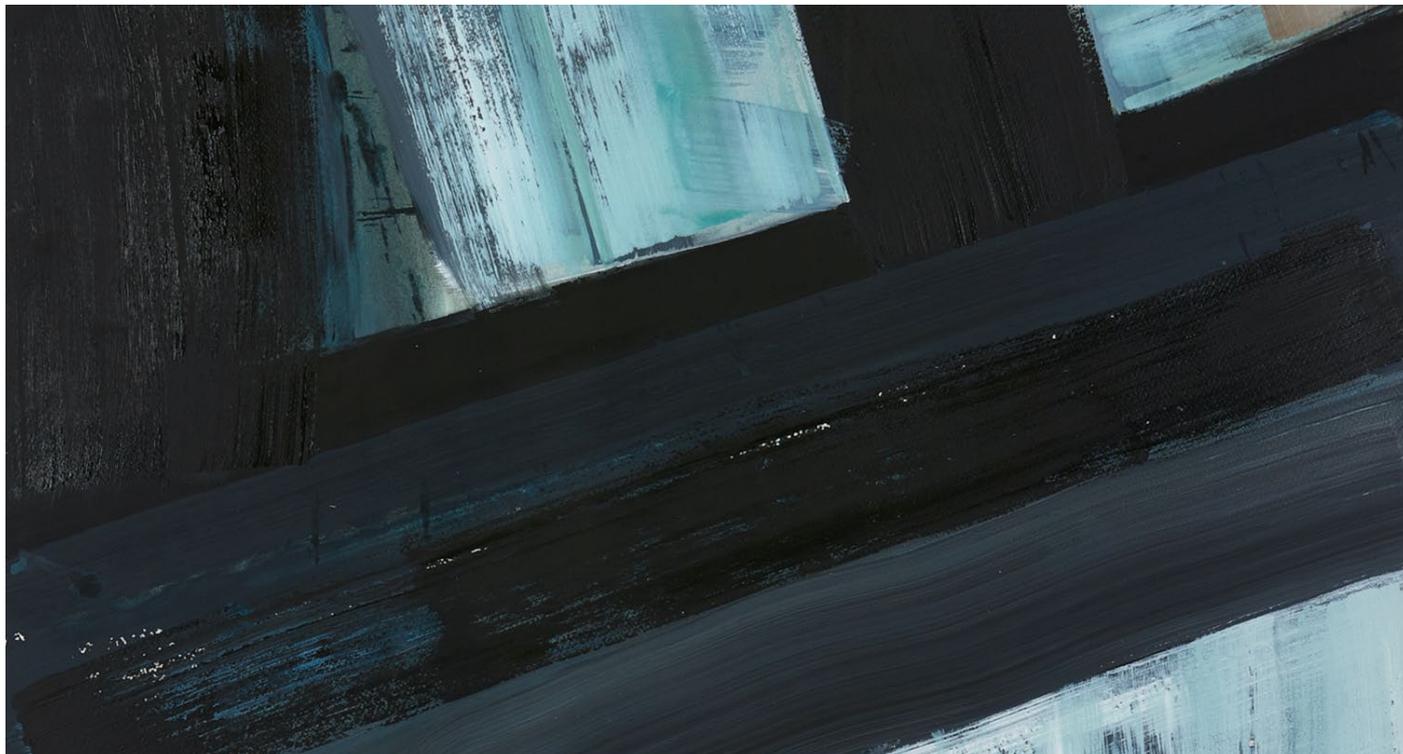

Johnnie Cooper

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Throe On Throe Johnnie Cooper

The Vinx, 24 April 2019



Johnnie Cooper, Saatchi Gallery

Throe on throe is the new exhibition at Saatchi Gallery surveying the work of acclaimed British artist Johnnie Cooper. The show is situated across two galleries and is comprised of sculptures and over 50 paintings spanning across the artist's career from the 1970's to the present day.

The artist describes his work as three dimensional, his love of nature permeates into his paintings and sculptural work. Cooper had worked on his collection of exhibition pieces as little as 8 weeks prior to the show at Saatchi Gallery. The artist's oil and acrylic canvases were inspired by the idyllic remote setting in which Cooper resides in the British countryside.

The exhibition accordingly flows in a systematic manner to represent the artist's extensive career. The collection begins with Cooper's earlier sculptural works. *Chained To The Nest* (1974) represents a newly-hatched bird struggling to leave its mother's womb. The artist describes this as his attraction to "*the physicality of the surface*" which can be found universally in nature and across his work.

Initially Cooper studied painting at Staffordshire College of Art and in turn "became seduced by the idea of sculpture". Several of his initial sculptural works appear in the gallery today and are an unmistakable reflection of the artist's clear passion for sculpture and nature.

The praised second gallery space finalises Cooper's throe on throe exhibition. The artist describes how his love of poetry ignited his passion to create his most recent collection. *Weathers*, a poem by Thomas Hardy, is Cooper's main source of inspiration. Upon walking around the gallery Cooper recites the most prominent line "*This is the weather the shepherd shuns, And so do I*" as being the catalyst for his paintings. Below, Cooper's favourite piece of music can be heard of which he encourages "*must be listened to with a stiff drink of rum*".

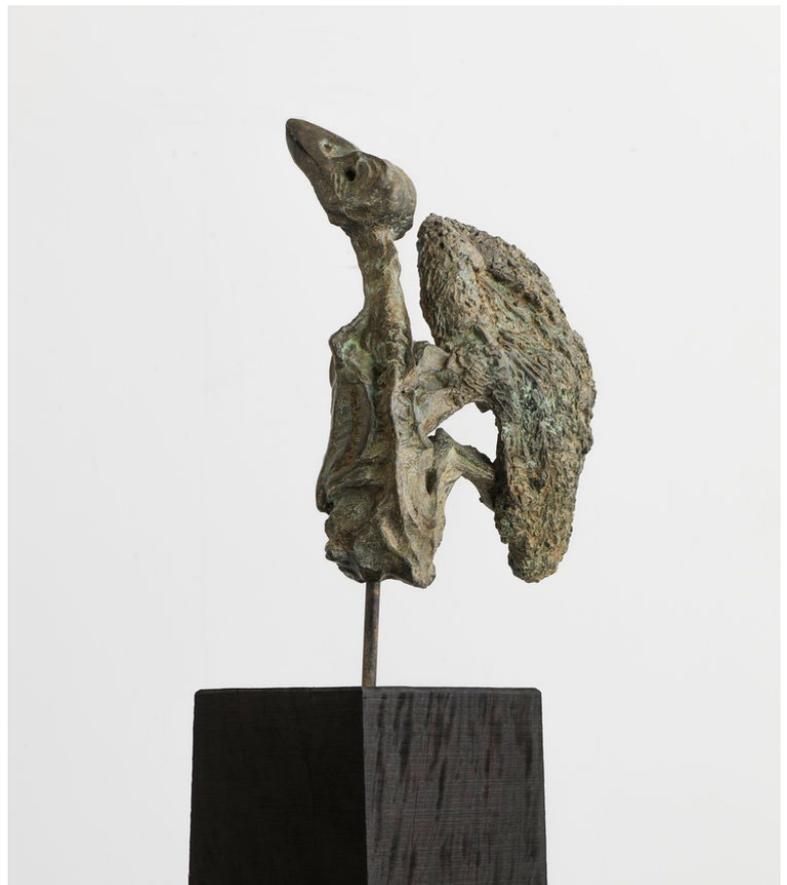
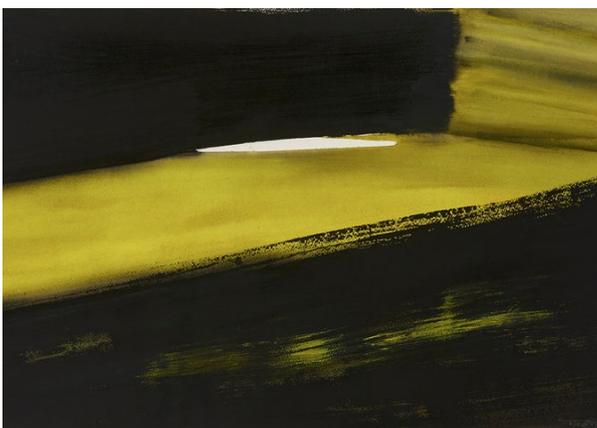
The heavy brush strokes found in his experimental paintings articulate the artist's intimate relationship with nature. It is no surprise to learn that the artist has worked in his rural Worcestershire studio since the late 1980's.

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The artist explains how he hopes cosmopolitan visitors get the chance to experience *"the moody ambiance of the world [in which he] operates in that is the beautiful English countryside"*. Throe on throe is an unmissable exhibition,

the show celebrates an artist, who's inquisitive mind and intuitive nature create a beautiful and yet dark exhibition we see so often in the English countryside so few of us inhabit in London.

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