

Alexander Massouras
Departures

Solo show from 16 March to 11 May 2024

Opening on Saturday 16 March 2024, from 2pm to 7pm.

For his first solo exhibition in Paris, Alexander Massouras presents a group of new and emblematic paintings.

Repetition, temporality, and variation are constants in Alexander Massouras's work. *Departures* experiments with these ideas through a sequence of paintings drawing on found images of leisure—from postcards, advertisements, travel brochures, and other archival objects. In revealing a landscape of seasons that never change, *Departures* plays on the conventions of 'Four Seasons' painting sequences, which allows for a critique of these archival images motivating concept: leisure, itself a fiction of separated and measured time.



Four Summers (Margaret Island), 2024, oil on linen, 50 x 40 cm,
courtesy of the artist and Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou

Alexander Massouras (b.1981) is a British artist and writer based in Cambridge, UK.

Based on iconographic reproduction and the role played by memory in perception, his protean work (engravings, drawings, paintings) conjures up different temporal strata. Alexander Massouras creates narratives with fine and delicate strokes that stand out clearly against a monochrome background. He draws on both art history and found images, such as postcards, photographs of excavations and travel brochures. These snippets of reality are distorted during the creative process, and end up sticking to the medium. The viewer has to call on his memory, a bank of immaterial images that he thinks he recognises, to decode this enigmatic copy. The artist tends to evoke an impression of déjà-vu by invoking figuration, while at the same time creating an abstract confusion through the almost geometric arrangement of isolated bodies suspended in space. In doing so, he gives his work a timeless character while anchoring the image in a familiar reality.

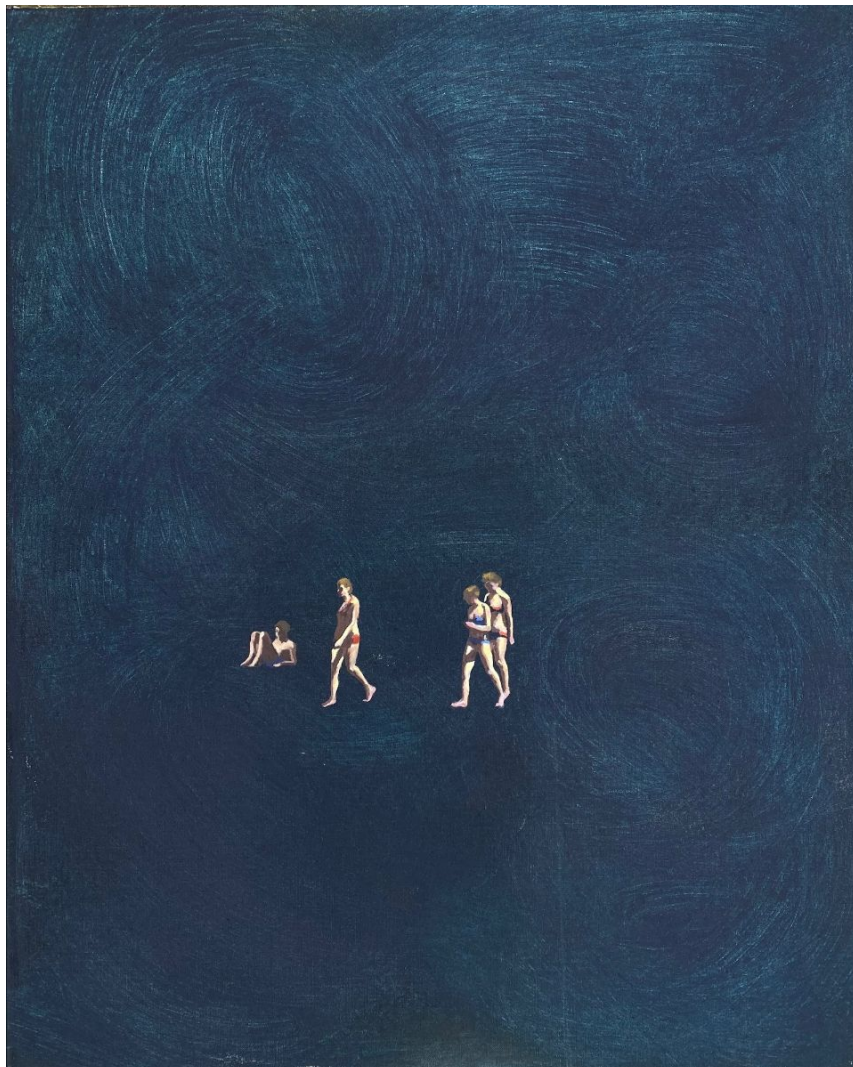
His work is in UK and international collections including the Ashmolean, the British Museum, the Fitzwilliam, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He was a member of the research project 'Art School Educated' at Tate; a Leverhulme Fellow at the Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford; and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Paul Mellon Centre.



Four Summers IV, 2019, oil on linen, 56 x 46 cm,
courtesy of the artist and Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou



Four Summers (Gulf Shores), 2024, oil on linen, 56 x 46 cm,
courtesy of the artist and Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou



Four Summers XI, 2020, oil on linen, 56 x 46 cm,
courtesy of the artist and Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou