

Press Release

Hugo Wilson

11 February – 21 March 2015

Private view:

10 February, 6–8pm



Hugo Wilson, *Labour 1*, 2014
Terracotta and waxed steel
42 × 37 × 158 cm

For further details and images
please contact:

Caroline Widmer

Rhiannon Pickles PR

+44 (0)7908 848 075

caroline@picklespr.com

Parafin is pleased to announce a forthcoming exhibition of new work by the young British artist Hugo Wilson (b.1982) which explores ideas of faith and power by considering and subverting structures of ideology and systems of belief. Working across the mediums of painting, sculpture, drawing and photography, Wilson examines the ways in which art has been used to present and reinforce these structures over time. This much anticipated exhibition is Wilson's first solo show in London in a decade.

The exhibition includes a group of new paintings portraying the most primal of all rituals, the hunt. Hunting scenes were popular with wealthy collectors in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They represented a kind of 'trophyism' and a way of displaying mastery over nature. Wilson's new paintings are based on, or inspired by, famous paintings by old masters such as Rubens and Stubbs and show bizarre events where great beasts such as lions and crocodiles have been trained to hunt other animals. Wilson strips away much of the detail — especially from the hunters themselves — to create weirdly 'powerless' images. Foreboding and violent, these large-scale paintings skillfully employ classical techniques to render writhing animal forms, snarling teeth and immense physical strength. Suggestive of mythic battle scenes, Wilson's paintings shake the foundation of the context that they appear to mimic, questioning the validity of any man-made system of ideology.

Alongside the paintings Wilson will show new photographs and drawings. The charcoal drawings depict Roman Mithraic friezes where all detail (and legible 'meaning') has been eroded over time. The photographs document commercial property developments where islands of consecrated ground are isolated and protected.

Finally, in the lower gallery Wilson will show a major installation of twelve terracotta sculptures, depicting the Labours of Hercules. Each sculpture is a composite of imagery from illustrations of the Labours throughout history, from Greek and Roman representations to contemporary cartoons, but the specific imagery related to each Labour has been removed and we are left with a compendium of seemingly ideological forms.

Hugo Wilson's recent solo exhibitions include Project B, Milan (2013) and Mihai Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2012). He was included in *Play Things* at the New York Public Library (2013), *Nightfall: New Tendencies in Figurative Painting* at the MODEM Centre for Modern and Contemporary Art, Debrecen, Hungary (2012) and the Busan Biennial (2010). Wilson's work is in private and public collections internationally, including the New York Public Library, the Deutsche Bank Collection and the Fondazione Memmo in Rome. In October 2013 Wilson was featured as one of just six 'rising stars' in European art by the Wall Street Journal. Wilson lives and works in London.

Editor's Notes

Parafin

Parafin was launched in September 2014 by former Haunch of Venison London directors Ben Tufnell and Matt Watkins. They are joined by the founder of London gallery Master Piper, Nicholas Rhodes.

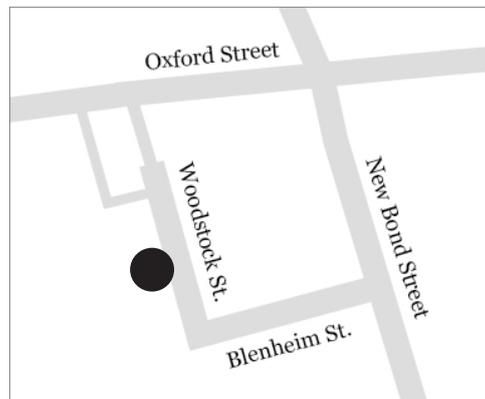
Located at 18 Woodstock Street, just off New Bond Street, Parafin represents a broad selection of contemporary artists from emerging names to established international figures.

Gallery artists

Tim Head	Nancy Holt
Hynek Martinec	Enrique Martínez Celaya
Justin Mortimer	Katie Paterson
Hiraki Sawa	Michelle Stuart
Hugo Wilson	Uwe Wittwer

Woodstock Street, Mayfair

Woodstock Street is located on the northern edge of Mayfair, London, between New Bond Street (via Blenheim Street) and Oxford Street. Parafin is situated near to the historic tiled Art Deco façade of auction house Bonhams.



Opening Hours

Tuesday–Friday, 10–6
Saturday, 10–5
Or by appointment