CHRISTINA PARKER
GALLERY



An Empathic Bridge Oil on linen, 52 x 72", 2026

MARK THOMPSON
faith & dust

DECEMBER 4th, 2026 ~ JANUARY 2nd, 2027

Something unexpected has leeched into my work - an emotional heat haze of light and dust. In reaction to this my deepening interest in the history of painting has begun to inform my techniques in a profound way. Painting is hard. Without faith in the possibility of making something meaningful rather than simply expedient, technique falls apart. I cannot allow this. The building of belief in painting and its future seems central to placing one's feet firmly on the path of truly personal image making. The longer I paint, the closer I get to this.

My work has long been tied to memory, and my desire to understand what fixes one event into permanence whilst allowing another to fade. Nothing arrives Ex-Nihilo… it requires a tooth to adhere to. This dust, the grit in the machine of memory, the something that develops experience in time, allows it to become part of consciousness. In search of this, I have had the good fortune to visit and revisit Italy over the past few years. Alongside its obvious beauty, it has become a catalyst to bring the residue of a life in painting together.

The works in this exhibition span my restless life, from my childhood hometown to the Arctic, from Sweden to Florence. Each image rising in its own time as the dust settles. I have faith in its slow but unstoppable evolution, and wait semi-patiently whilst it continues to unfold.



Arctic Dreams Oil on ACM panel, 36 x 48", 2023

BIOGRAPHY Born in the Fenlands of Eastern England (1972), Mark went on to study painting at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. His early memories of the land informed his studies, and he continues to explore the inextricable link between landscape and memory in his current body of work. After completing his degree in 1997, he won first the Duveen and then the Rootstein Hopkins travel scholarships, which took him to Iceland, Norway and Finland. Mark's experiences in these harsh Nordic landscapes inspired his first solo exhibition at the Proud Galleries in London (1999). Since that first show, Mark has been the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including the Gilchrist Fisher Landscape Painting Award and the Villiers David Award. Mark's paintings have been the subject of numerous solo and group exhibitions in Europe and America - notably with solo shows at the M. K. Ciurlionis National Museum of Art in Lithuania, the Hordaland International Art Gallery in Norway, and the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, USA. His work is represented in public and private collections, including the Government Art Collection of Great Britain and Microsoft collections. In December 2019 he participated in the Pouch Cove Foundation residency, an experience that he cites as changing the course of his life. Mark now lives and works in Newfoundland and Labrador and has upcoming exhibitions in Germany and Norway.



Of Iron and Rust Oil on ACM panel, 16 x 24", 2023



Jacob's Ladder Oil on linen, 52 x 72", 2026