

JEFFREY DENNIS

TRACES OF OCCUPATION - PAINTINGS 2019

5 July – 2 August 2019

PV: 4 July Thursday 6-8 pm

[View Exhibition Catalogue on-line](#)

Art Space Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of paintings and painted objects by Jeffrey Dennis. Selected exclusively from work made over the last three years it represents a clear demonstration of his enduring faith in a unique and idiosyncratic painterly language that took root in his work in the 80s and which he has developed and refined for over thirty years.



A Jeffrey Dennis painting, or one of his painted objects, is instantly recognisable: the surface is built up slowly, layer upon layer, with small marks, rich and varied in colour and texture to resemble a foaming layer or 'bubblescape'. And into this bubblescape he weaves a network of tubular structures and wires interspersed with fragments of reality that are taken from film-stills, newspaper and magazine photographs or his favoured 70s catalogue of furniture and building components and materials. We may even find bus or underground tickets, cinema tickets or even discarded material found in the street, indeed anything that causes a chain of interrelated reactions or a linking narrative across the surface as he interrogates a particular idea or theme that has sparked off his imagination.

In the exhibition catalogue essay Sue Hubbard writes:

When the 'death of painting' is still dragged out and regularly presented as a tired mantra, Dennis shows how the form can be endlessly reinvented to deal with current issues such as the complexity and disorientation of urban space, and the way in which public transport and

digital systems impact on our sensibilities, as well as being a vehicle for deeper investigations into the psyche. He also engages in a discussion about the materiality of paint, one that touches on questions as to when a painting is not a painting but a sculpture.

Dennis's paintings are linked by his fascination for the urban environment and his day to day encounters with the world he inhabits. He is a master of the incongruous juxtaposition and he distorts scale, space and time to create a vision both plausible and extraordinary; a vision suffused with knowledge of art history coupled with a determination to express himself thoughtfully as a painter in a language of its time.

Jeffrey Dennis was born in Colchester (1958) and has exhibited regularly in the UK and internationally since 1979. This will be his third solo exhibition at Art Space Gallery. He has had solo exhibitions at Whitechapel Art Gallery (1986), Orchard Gallery, Derry (1993) Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art (2015) and regularly in New York and Milan. His work is held in permanent collections worldwide including Arts Council of England, Tate, the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Foundation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris and private collections in Europe, America and the UK.



Images:

Top: **Traces of Occupation**, 2018, oil and charcoal on linen, 102 x 183cm
Above: **The Street Confessionals**, 2018, oil & charcoal on linen, 30 x 40.5cm

To obtain a hard copy of the catalogue with an essay by Sue Hubbard please contact the Gallery.
View on line at: www.artspacegallery.co.uk

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11-6 pm during exhibitions