

SIMON deBRÉE

Secret Garden

Opening: July 21st, 5-8 pm

Exhibition period ends: August 19th

Gallery opening hours: Thursday-Friday 12-5 pm, Saturday 12-4 pm

Johan Berggren Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by Simon deBrée. In *Secret Garden*, deBrée has consciously played with different stages of completion, which has allowed him to open up to new compositional possibilities as well as painterly formats.

DeBrée has always been concerned with the immediate, daily act of painting. His work has consisted typically of smaller paintings, approximately window-sized, densely painted with many layers of pure oil paint. Now moving into a larger format, this painterly energy is dispersed over a wider surface, revealing the structure of natural forms that usually lie buried under multiple strata of oil paint. References to the artist's lived environment, in the remote forests surrounding the lake Örken in Småland, are now more direct and immediate.

The larger format has allowed deBrée to investigate the physical aspects of the painterly process in a more direct way. His process of creating near-monochrome abstract surfaces, which alluded to the forms and colours of nature, has given way to a more traceable and visible figuration. Branches, leaves, and stones intertwine, creating a tableaux both dense and spacious.

Another aspect of this new series of work is seriality. Featured in the exhibition are 4 larger and 9 smaller paintings. The larger paintings all relate to one another in a cycle over time and to the changes of nature, observed in the immediate surroundings around the artist's studio. These have been painted sequentially, one being completed before a new one was started. Following that, a series of smaller paintings was started, to condense the new experience from working in a larger format.

What deBrée has gained from experimenting with these new formats are, above all, a new painterly rhythm and a certainty in execution. The works are at the same time solitary and co-mingling, cross-fertilizing each other in an entirely new manner.

Simon deBrée (b.1985) is from Vancouver Island, Canada but lives and works in Skärbäck, Sweden. Simon deBrée holds a BA from Emily Carr University of Art+Design, Vancouver, Canada.

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