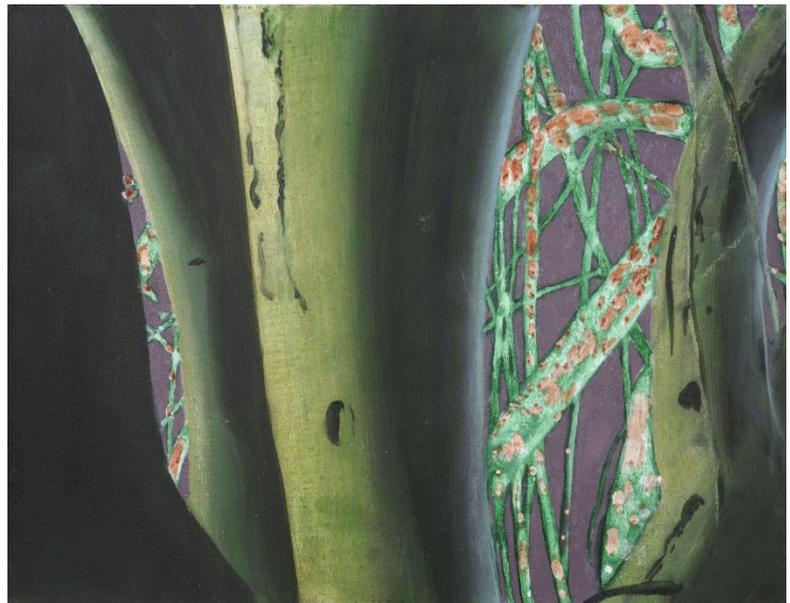


PAUL HAMLYN**HERE**

Paintings 2012

25 May – 22 June 2012

*Harmony, 2012, oil on canvas, 36 x 41 cm*

Transporting quiet fragments of the English countryside through time, space and imagination, Paul Hamlyn has created an unsettling, alien version of *HERE*.

Hamlyn's landscapes are inspired by Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk, a scrub woodland where a high-profile series of UFO sightings were reported in 1980. Drawing and painting in situ, he develops these landscape foregrounds, with their disturbed currents of rumour and alien life, by means of a Google Earth-style telescoping of distance. From a tree trunk, through the middle distance to outer space, near and far unite in Hamlyn's *HERE*. In his work, when the moon hangs in the foreground like a polished pebble, it *is* a polished pebble.

As the title of the show suggests, *HERE* is not so much a place as a state of mind. The most fundamental human question (*Who am I?*) presupposes the tranquility and leisure to look inwards. *Where am I?*, however, implies anxiety and alertness as the vulnerable self peers outwards at the infinite. The statement 'I am here' suggests that 'I' and 'here' are one and the same.

Hamlyn's works invite simultaneous engagement with the familiar and the cosmological. The condition of man is *HERE* on earth, peering through the branches of trees at a universe full of dark matter.

Paul Hamlyn was born in Stockport in 1953 and studied Art at St Martin's (1981- 84) and Goldsmith's MA (1986-87). He has shown regularly in the UK and his portrait illustrations have appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout Europe and America. This will be his second solo exhibition with Art Space Gallery.