



***DRA ÅT SKOGEN* - THE RURAL ABSTRACTIONS BY JOAKIM ALLGULANDER**

Private View      Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 6.30 - 9pm

Orion Contemporary in collaboration with Fiumano Projects, is delighted to present *Dra Åt Skogen* - The Rural Abstractions. An investigative project where Joakim Allgulander focuses on the potential for abstraction and colour fluidity within the genre of Landscape Painting;

“I admire works of historic Swedish landscape painters such as Helmer Osslund or Inge Schiöler who have that natural abstraction but my practice is more about getting under the bark, more existential, more urban, more mundane.” - J.A, March 2016

Working from his studios in London, Allgulander has for the past year immersed himself in a deeply personal study of the landscapes that surrounded him as a child growing up in rural Sweden. This new body of work is composed of semi- abstract studies of snowy spruce trees extracted from photographs and memory. The paintings become fragments, a whole tree is not depicted, the detail being symbolic of the essence of childhood memories but also a natural recognizable abstraction in itself.

The layering technique used by Allgulander refers directly to this notion of memory and its multitude of dimensions. The images, built up with oil paint and washes, could be seen as references to the manner in which our brains frequently overlay latter additions to existing recollections. The original memory becomes overshadowed yet it still permeates, much like the first layer of paint beneath the final surface of the work. At times one spruce tree has been painted across several canvases. Contrasting shading and colour palettes are used in order explore how differing methods of applying the paint or ambient conditions affect the final viewing experience.

Much like Claude Monet’ s approach to his Rouen Cathedral series, Allgulander has no intention of creating a painting that mirrors reality in its entirety. He strives to create an object, a piece almost like a sculpture but with paint on a flat surface. The abstraction comes with the colour and the texture of the paint and it is only when the work begins to feel more like a sculpture or an object that Allgulander can feel truly fulfilled with what he has created.

[www.orioncontemporary.com](http://www.orioncontemporary.com)

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In essence Joakim Allgulander's work is far removed from our traditional notions of the picturesque. His experiences of living in the fast paced urban environment of London has, on a subtle psychological level, seeped into the mysterious deep depths of the Nordic forests.

## Notes to Editors

**Orion Contemporary** was founded in 2008 and is run by Andrés Olow Clase. It now has a semi-permanent base within **Fiumano Projects** space in the King's Cross/Farringdon area of London, having previously been a nomadic gallery. The gallery programme centres around promoting young and emerging artists with a strong focus on Nordic art.

Having previously been part of the paintings team at Sotheby's, London, Andrés gives Orion Contemporary an international outlook with his strong ties to England, Italy and Spain as well as his native Sweden. He also retains a strong interest in European Old Master Paintings.

**Joakim Allgulander's** practice is broad, in both subject and media, however the existential lyricism and poetic content is a constant. Born in Stockholm in 1965 Joakim studied at Uppsala University and the National College of the Arts and Crafts in Stockholm. Regarded as one of Sweden's most successful multidisciplinary contemporary artists his work can be found in public collections including the Swedish Arts Council, the Municipality of Gotland and the Stockholm World Trade Centre.

*Dra Åt Skogen* - The Rural Abstractions is located at 21 Wren Street. The nearest underground stations are Russell Square and Chancery Lane (Piccadilly and Central lines). The nearest railway stations are King's Cross and Farringdon. Numerous busses pass nearby.

WHEN: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of May  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Friday 11am - 6pm, Sat & Sun 12 noon - 4 pm  
All other times by appointment  
WHERE: Orion Contemporary / FIUMANO PROJECTS  
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