

Jonathan Freemantle
IN SEARCH OF THE
MIRACULOUS

ESCAT GALLERY
April - May 2025

The title of the exhibition is inspired by the book **In Search of the Miraculous: Fragments of an Unknown Teaching** by Russian philosopher P. D. Ouspensky, published in 1949. In this book, Ouspensky recounts his encounter with George Gurdjieff and the esoteric teachings imparted to him. During the creation of this series, Jonathan Freemantle has been reading and practicing these teachings, integrating them into his artistic process. At times, the experience has been truly miraculous.

One of the fundamental principles of Gurdjieff's teachings is the alchemical process of connecting the body with higher energies. This series of paintings emerges from the artist's daily practice of meditation and self-remembering, exercises that oscillate between being challenging and deeply revealing. During these moments, Freemantle experiences a pulsating energy that seems to emanate both from within and beyond his body.

Each work is built up through successive layers of transparent oil paint, achieving vibrant and resonant surfaces. The background brushstrokes follow a methodical rhythm: vertical, horizontal, vertical, in a process of contemplation and calm. In contrast, the large strokes on the surface arise from a state of deep stillness and are executed with oversized brushes, handcrafted by the artist himself using natural hair and long handles. Before each stroke, Freemantle meditates for at least 30 minutes, waiting for the energy to "arrive" and then acting without thought, in a spontaneous and precise gesture.

Jonathan Freemantle (Cape Town, 1978) lives and works in Edinburgh, Scotland. His training at St. Oswald's Academy in London and his deep knowledge of Art History have shaped his rigorous approach to painting. His work explores the relationship between the body, time, and the earth, using materials such as ground mountain rocks and ochre. Through these mediums, his paintings physically incorporate nature into the act of painting, placing the body in harmony with the landscape.



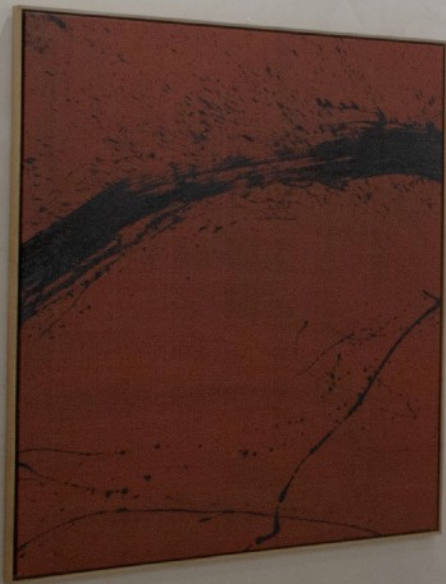
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IN SEARCH OF
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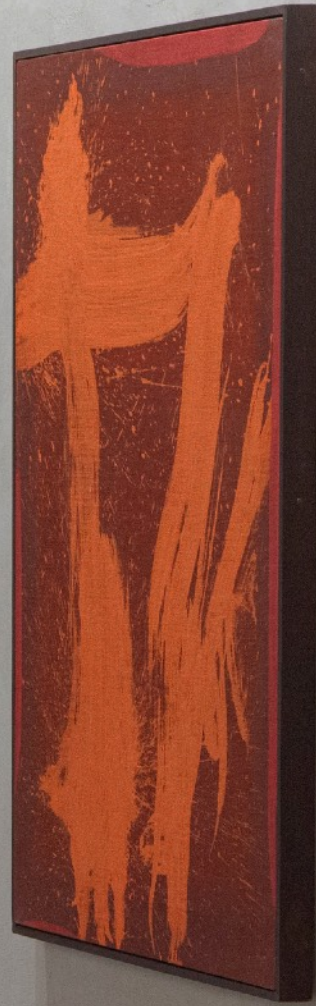


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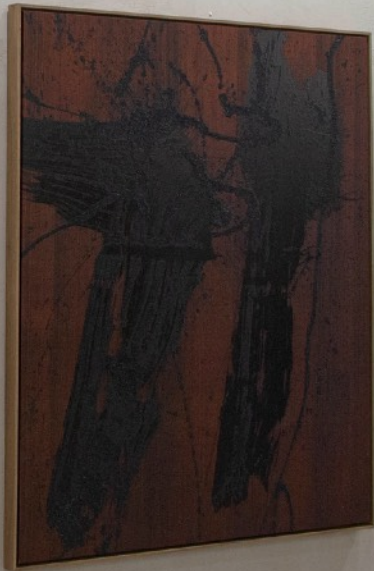
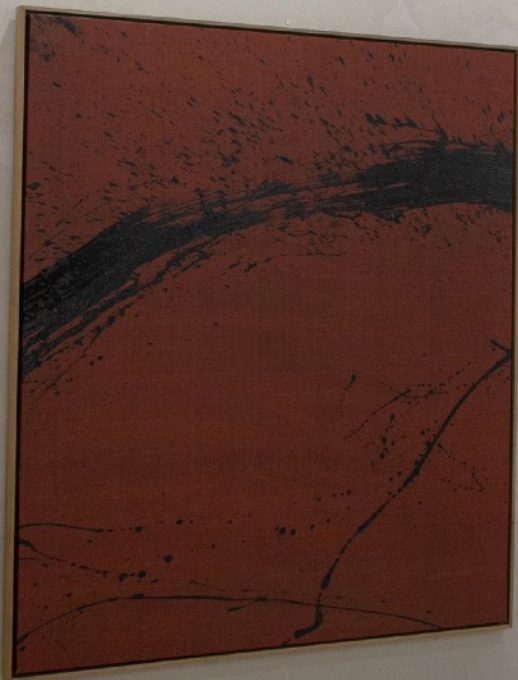
The Fountain of Youth
Scorched cedar, stone base
150 x 20 x 20cm















We are Food for The Moon (I , II & III)
Oil, pigment and ground mountain rock on canvas
420 x 160cm



We are Food for The Moon (I)
Oil, pigment and ground mountain rock on canvas
140 x 160cm



We are Food for The Moon (II)

Oil, pigment and ground mountain rock on canvas
140 x 160cm



We are Food for The Moon (III)

Oil, pigment and ground mountain rock on canvas
140 x 160cm



A sudden glimpse into much deeper things
Oil, pigment and ground mountain rock on canvas
140 x 160cm



Drinking at the River of Light

Oil, pigment and ground mountain rock on canvas
140 x 160cm



Heart without Measure

Oil, pigment and ground mountain rock on canvas
140 x 160cm

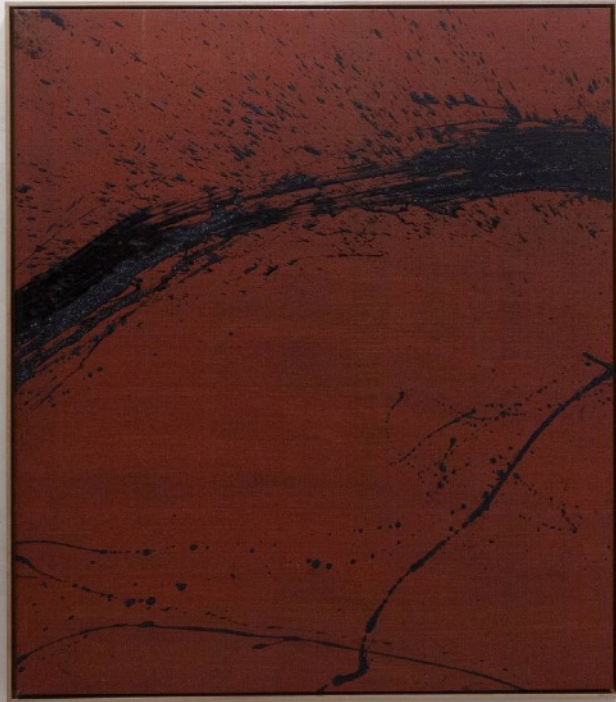


Miraculous (I)

Oil, pigment and ground mountain rock on canvas
124 x 104cm











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