



# Max Wade





Max Wade follows an autobiographical approach to painting which demonstrates his growing interest in technique, application and material. Although rooted in figuration and representation, Wade's paintings are imagined landscapes in flux; planes interchange, motifs are obscured, forms emerge and dissolve within fields of colour and texture.

His process begins with sketchbook drawings of observations of day-to-day life rather than detailed documentation objects or people. He sketches uneventful scenes, often building forms from negative space rather than the subjects themselves.

The drawings are made on translucent pages where one sketch imprints onto the next as Wade traces through from the previous drawing. From reworking and over-laying, Wade gathers new forms and spatial relations to work from. His composition progress, his forms become more abstract.

Wade then takes his garnered forms and motifs to his large-scale canvases. First drawing with charcoal and then rapidly applying the oil in washes of multiple layers of pigment. He pushes, pulls, scrapes and jabs his medium - often layering wet paint on wet paint, and rotating the orientation of the canvas as he works.

Wade consciously strives for ambiguity in his works. Rather than attempting to provide answers, he asks questions and cultivates new conversations.

Each work's rhythm and mood are largely set by music. A combination of styles and genres, from frantic jazz to repetitive minimalist compositions, this music paces and invigorates the physicality of Wade's studio practice.

Often working on a large scale, Wade is concerned with the physical act of painting, invoking the style of Abstract Expressionists like Willem de Kooning, Joan Mitchell, and Grace Hartigan, as well as contemporaries like Amy Sillman. By applying and removing paint to create depth and texture, Wade willingly loses elements he has painstakingly crafted and creates portals which transport viewers through layers of perceptive.

## Max Wade

- 1985 Born in London  
Lives and works in London
- 2004-2007 University of Brighton, BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 NADA Miami, USA  
Dodge and Burn, Maya Frodeman Gallery, Wyoming, USA
- 2023 Go Bang, Sid Motion Gallery, London, UK
- 2021 Whisper Down the Lane, Sid Motion Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 Sowing the Soil with Salt, Sid Motion Gallery, London, UK  
Platform: London, hosted by David Zwirner (online)  
Wind for the Sails, Messums Wiltshire, Salisbury, UK

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Across the Pond: Contemporary Painting in London,  
Eric Firestone Gallery, New York, USA
- 2024 Searching Minds, with Carole Gibbons and Roy Oxlade,  
Sid Motion Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 Abstract Colour, Marlborough Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 Stand with Ukraine, Hales London, UK

Cover: Max Wade, (Detail) Ships at night, 2024, oil on canvas, 180 x 150cm

Inside: Max Wade, Acrobatics, 2024, oil on canvas, 160 x 120cm

Back: Max Wade, (Detail) Crow scarer, 2024, oil on canvas, 180 x 130cm

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