

ANTHONY DALEY

21 CORK STREET
LONDON W1S 3LZ12 January - 4 February, 2023
Private View Wednesday 11th January, 2023, 6-8pm

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Coinciding with his major presentation *Son of Rubens* at Dulwich Picture Gallery, Flowers Gallery is delighted to exhibit a series of new, large-scale works by Anthony Daley. This marks Daley's eighth showing at Flowers, his first aged twenty-three in 1983 as the gallery's first ever 'Artist of the Day.' This exhibition presents paintings that expand on the thematic works exhibited at Dulwich Picture Gallery, which are thoughtful, personal responses to an iconic work in the gallery's collection: Peter Paul Rubens's *Venus, Mars and Cupid* (c.1635).

These powerful works from the abstractionist painter demonstrate how art history remains fertile material for contemporary art practice today. Daley reflects that from an early age he was "obsessed" with Old Master paintings, poring over books he'd found in his local church in Jamaica, motivated by the challenge, in his words, of "being as good" as the French, Italian and Dutch Masters.

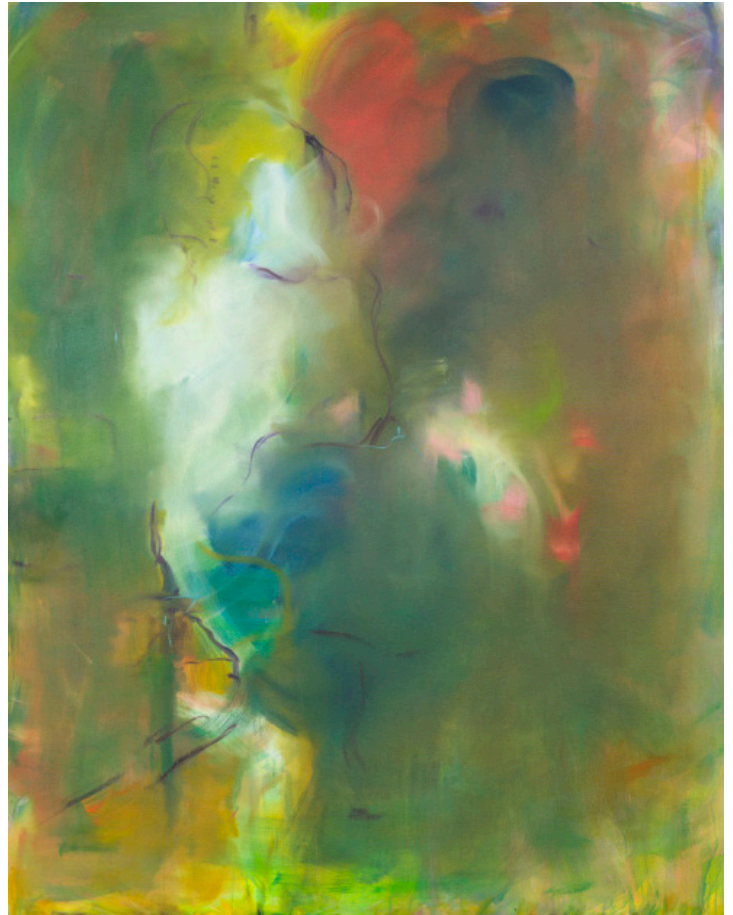
The influence of Rubens, famed for his mastery of colour and almost sculptural development of texture through his use of paint, is evident in these canvases, which are built up with gestural, textured passages that coalesce into rich, often explosive fields of colour. In works such as *Bombshell* and *Saintly*, Daley's radiant palette appears as though illuminated from an internal light source, recalling the luminescence of Rubens' famed classical nudes.

In other works, the moody plums of *Dividing Line* and the central passage of lustrous bottle greens in *Shielded* suggest romantic ideals of the sublime. The improvisational drips of paint and gestural passages of colour that recur across these new works demonstrate the central importance Daley has always placed on the process of art making itself, as he states he is always, above all, "searching for new painterly possibilities."

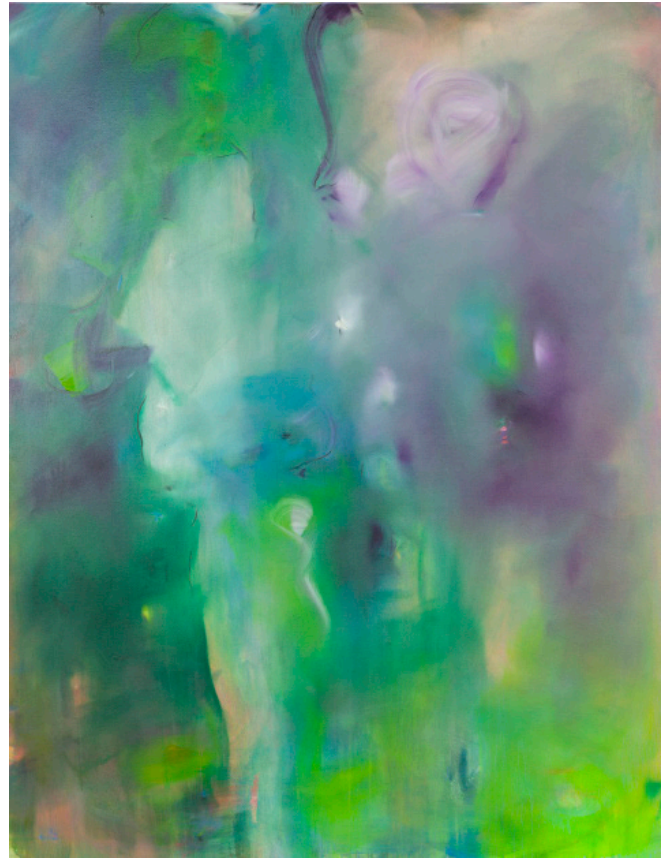
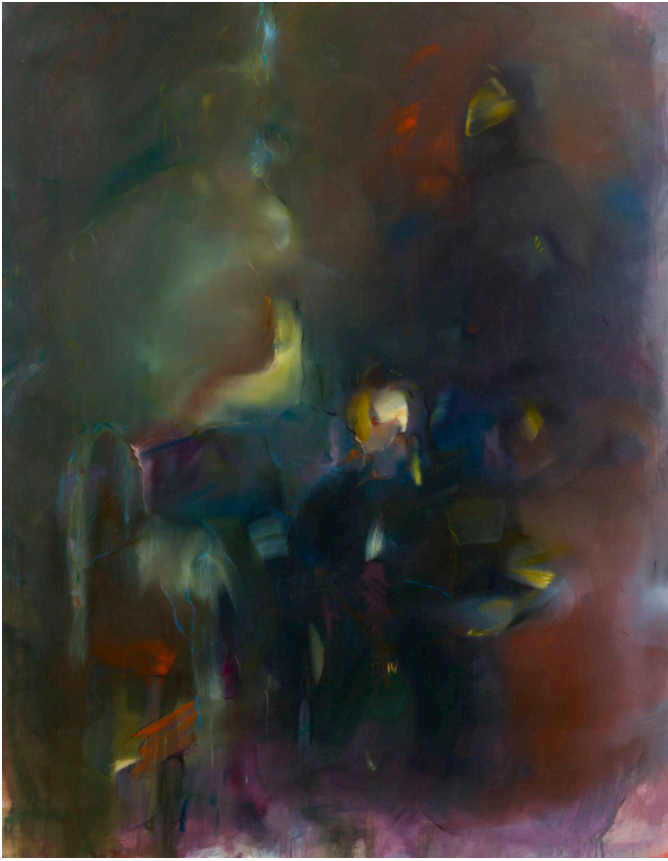
Anthony Daley is on view at Flowers Gallery, Cork Street from 11 January - 4 February, 2023.

Anthony Daley, *Son of Rubens* is on view at Dulwich Picture Gallery until 2 April, 2023 as part of the *Unlocking Paintings* series, which presents new perspectives on the gallery's collection.

For more information, please email Ellie Jeans: press@flowersgallery.com / +44 (0) 20 7920 7777



Bombshell (2022), oil on canvas, 213.4 x 167.6 cm



From left: *Dividing Line* (2022), oil on canvas, 213.4 x 167.6 cm; *Transmuter* (2022), oil on canvas, 213.4 x 167.6 cm

ABOUT ANTHONY DALEY

Anthony Daley moved to the UK from Jamaica in 1972. After graduating from Leeds Arts University in 1979, Wimbledon College of Arts in 1982 and Chelsea College of Arts in 1983, Daley was awarded the Pollock-Krasner Painting Fellowship in 1984. He has since exhibited extensively nationally and internationally: his first major showing was in 1983 as the first ever 'Artist of the Day' at Flowers Gallery, London and his work has since been exhibited at The Barbican and The Royal Academy of Art, London, the Museum of Harlem, New York City and Pulchri Studio, The Hague. His work is represented in numerous public collections including the Tate Collection, the National Portrait Gallery and Dulwich Picture Gallery. Since the 1990s, he has also been teaching, with Chris Offilli among his former students at Chelsea College of Art. He lives and works in London.



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Exhibition opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 6pm

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