

Adrian Morris

17 November–15 December 2018

The paintings of Adrian Morris (1929-2004) exhibited here span the period 1960-1992. They often centre upon demarcating physical places that set up formal relationships between the inside and outside of post-war, military-industrial zones: towers blocks, hangers and airstrips. The pictures are regularly 'framed' by a 'spacecraft' hatch that acts as a viewfinder onto the scene beyond. An arid, featureless, landscape is invoked across the majority of the works. Morris enunciated a prescient awareness of the Anthropocene and the existential threats of 21st Century human conflict and destruction, as made explicit in his periodic inclusion of lone refugee figures into the compositions. These were faithfully rendered from magazines but more often than not overpainted, in a process that left only traces of their existence.

Morris rarely exhibited his work and often reworked the paintings. The practice represented a singularity that came in and out of focus in accordance with a lifetime of tropes and fashions in art and painting. A notable exception was his inclusion in the 1978 Hayward annual (remembered as the 'feminist' annual due to the introduction of an all female selection committee) where he exhibited sixteen paintings, some of which have been included here.

This exhibition follows a seminar held at Camberwell College of Art on 25 October 2018 organised by Merlin James—with contributions from Merlin James, Matthew Pang, Anna Susanna Woof and Liliane Lijn—on the work of Adrian Morris. This marked the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Hayward Annual '78.

Merlin James' paper Planet of the Humans: Adrian Morris and the 1978 Hayward Annual that was presented at the seminar can be found here:

[https://www.academia.edu/37780091/
Planet_of_the_Humans_Adrian_Morris_and_the_1978_Hayward_Annual.pdf](https://www.academia.edu/37780091/Planet_of_the_Humans_Adrian_Morris_and_the_1978_Hayward_Annual.pdf)

Organised by Matthew Pang
Curated by Matthew Pang and Le Bourgeois
With many thanks to Audrey Morris and Merlin James

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List of works

Clockwise from entrance:

Airfield

Early 1970s

Oil on board

99 x 81 cm

Block of Flats

Late 1960s

Oil on board

98 x 81 cm

Barren Land III

1980s

Oil on board

106.5 x 91 cm

Blocks of Flats

Late 1960s

Oil on board

91 x 81 cm

The Earth III

1977

Oil on board

91 X 81 cm

Partitioned Interior

1992

Oil on board

106.5 x 91 cm

New Road

1977

Oil on board

106.5 x 91 cm

Roadside

1977

Oil on board

106.5 x 91 cm

Dry Reservoir

Late 1970s

Oil on board

91 x 81 cm

Doorway

1980s

Oil on board

91 x 81 cm