



CHAPTER HOUSE LANE

DAVID EGAN

How did the worms know about the compost?

LAUNCH: Thursday 3 September, 6-8pm

EXHIBITION: 3 – 27 September



David Egan, *Pluto Side Reins Seal*, 2015, oil on canvas, 114 x 79 cm

This September, Chapter House Lane presents 'How did the worms know about the compost?' a series of paintings by David Egan. Please join us for drinks to celebrate the opening on Thursday 3 September from 6-8pm.

In his practice, which spans painting, writing, and performance, Egan builds constantly upon an interest in problem solving. This new work for Chapter House Lane considers limitations inherent to painting, such as format, materiality, and permanence. Alongside oil paintings, Egan includes work created with found organic material. 'How did the worms know about the compost?' calls the very basis of ownership into question; involving a slow process of borrowing and taking, of looking and thinking on the part of both artist and audience.

For Egan, painting is a translation of subjective experiences pitted against historical narratives. Composition is refigured as decomposition. Collecting from private and public gardens, he gathers a variety flowers, grass, leaves, and dirt. This material is rubbed over the surface of canvas, combined with layers of watered-down house paint and gesso. Traditionally, paintings exist outside of time, however in Egan's work these natural pigments erode and fade. The painting becomes something more than a product of human artifice; it is a life form of its own, with the ability to subsist and react to its environment.

LOCATION: Chapter House Lane,
entry via Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000

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Chapter House Lane thanks Careers Australia, McPherson Wines, Hawthorn Brewing Company and St Paul's Cathedral for their ongoing support of our not-for-profit space.