



CHAPTER HOUSE LANE

MEDIA RELEASE
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David Egan

How did the worms know about the compost?

3 -27 September

This September, Chapter House Lane presents 'How did the worms know about the compost?' a series of new paintings by David Egan.

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.



David Egan, *Wang's Carpets*, 2015, Flowers, leaves, paint on canvas, 198 x 371cm.



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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.

About the artist:

Egan has exhibited nationally and internationally and is currently based in Melbourne. Recent exhibitions include: *Out Land Look Scape*, Westspace (2015), *Actually Energy Help Light*, Gertrude Contemporary (2015), *Underground Museum Tactic*, St Heliers Street Gallery (2014), *Painting Playing Cards*, Substation (2014), *Hire a magician to speak on your behalf, he is a great entertainer and the audience is blown away*, TCB artinc. (2013). See the artist's website more information: <http://david-egan.net>.

Exhibition: 3 – 27 September 2015

Launch: Thursday 3 September, 6–8pm

Location: Chapter House Lane, entry via Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Chapter House Lane is a non-profit contemporary art gallery in Melbourne. Find out more at chapterhouselane.org.au. Contact us for media enquiries, interviews or images: Louise Klerks | 0404 118 105 | louise@chapterhouselane.org.au

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