



Gommie

Poems on Things

October 14th – November 6th 2021

Private View: October 14th, 6-8pm

Tuesday-Saturday, 11-5pm (open by appointment only)

Daniel Raphael Gallery is delighted to present ***Poems on Things***, a solo exhibition of new works by British-born poet artist, Gommie. This body of work, including large scale maps, also debuts a collection of twenty smaller illustrated poems that present a more complex approach to documenting politics, environmental and societal issues, public opinion and emotion.

Underpinned by travel, the artist explores these themes by walking across vast areas of the U.K and capturing them through a range of mediums. Whether it be on the map itself or his personal Moleskine diaries, the objective is the same - to remain faithful to the essence of the landscape and the residual feelings evoked by conversing with locals.

The artist repeatedly references love within his "diary poems" that are often set in nature. This is best seen in *My heart is a sweet shop, undeniably alive with all the possibilities* (2021). The marriage of poetry and drawing capturing the natural world, evokes the pastoral poems of the seventeenth century (as seen in the works of John Milton) and the influence of the Impressionists through the quick pen strokes made *en plein air*. While traditional poetry employs grandiose language, Gommie's unique storytelling inverts this notion. His candid and familiar manner of discussing current day topics of conversation, allows for the poems to relate to and inspire the reader. These never-before-exhibited artworks offer the viewer a unique insight into Gommie's digestion of public opinion during a time which has affected the global population in ways that are difficult to comprehend. Whether through compassion, wit, frustration or even sarcasm, the poems help us break down popular thought. The result is oddly warming, even when reading the ones that ironically reject positivity, such as *We did it, we fucked the world* (2021).

In his larger works, paintings come to the fore on top of ordnance survey maps – the maps being of areas that the artist has explored himself. These previously purely functional objects evolve by taking on the persona of artworks that include a sense of storytelling within the beautiful poetry and bright colours that burst with life and energy. His latest work, *Pink Boat on the River* (2021) shows Gommie's own houseboat on a canal, surrounded by billowing leaves and trees that are laden with smaller fragments of poems and phrases that resonate with the artist. This work and others in the exhibition, offer an exciting opportunity to witness Gommie's growth as an artist, as his works aid the viewer in processing their own surroundings as symbols of our collective consciousness.

For further information or high-resolution images please contact Daniel Levy at daniel@danielraphael.co.uk.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Daniel Raphael Gallery in London is dedicated to championing Emerging Art. Founded in 2016 by Daniel Levy, the exhibitions aim to be interactive, thought provoking and original. The Gallery acts as a platform for an international range of emerging and mid-career artists with a focus on talent that shows uniqueness and a high-quality finish. In order to maintain a diverse programme, there is great enthusiasm for collaborations on projects with curators, collectors and artists. As a general mood for those interacting and/or working with the Gallery, Daniel puts an emphasis on being transparent and approachable. "Our current space is representative of a domestic gallery - again further promoting the message that one should be at ease and comfortable in the gallery environment". - D. Levy, Founder.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gommie (b. 1985, UK) grew up in Oxfordshire, England. Having graduated from Central Saint Martins in 2008 with a degree in Acting, he worked as an actor until 2017 when he began to pursue a career in visual art and performance. Selected exhibitions include: *Bursting Myths, What Search and Rescue Really Feels Like*, Refugee Rescue (2021); *Unmasked*, Daniel Raphael Gallery, London (2020); *Selected Works*, Messums Gallery, London (2019).

SELECTED POEMS



Gommie, *The Tree That Says I Love You Lots*, 2021, Acrylic, oil and ink on four used ordnance survey maps, 175 x 150 cm.



Gommie, 17/01/2021, Ink on Moleskine paper, 25 x 19 cm.



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