

# CHARLIE SMITH london Ltd.

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Wed-Sat 11am-6pm or by appointment

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## DOMINIC SHEPHERD

### Lucifer Rising

Private View | First Thursday  
Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm–8.30pm

Exhibition Dates  
Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> 2010

Gallery Hours  
Wednesday–Saturday 11am–6pm or by appointment

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CHARLIE SMITH london is delighted to present Dominic Shepherd with his first one person show at the Old Street gallery.

In Latin Lucifer means 'light bearer', and came to refer to the planet Venus, otherwise known as the 'Morning Star', which can be witnessed an hour before sunrise in the skies of the east and an hour after sunset to the west. Lucifer then, signifies first light, the time when the darkness and mystery of night turn towards the clarity of dawn. It is at this point with its shifting nuances where Dominic Shepherd's most recent paintings operate.

Shepherd invites us into a time and place that is in-between, a place of mystery and the imagined. Calling to mind John Fowles' 'The Magus', Shepherd envisions a place populated by magicians, solitary wanderers, messengers, lost poets, artists and musicians, a place that is between reality and sur-reality where the macabre and the frivolous walk hand in hand. This imagined place is prompted by Shepherd's own immediate environment, where cottage and studio sit isolated in a clearing within dense Dorset woods. Stepping into these woods at night one feels simultaneously stimulated and threatened, but one is urged to embrace the shadows and the illusion that lie therein, where the fictive obfuscates truth.

At night, perhaps, such experience is appropriate, during the time of revelry and ritual, magic and intoxication. All take place beneath the cover of darkness. But at the hour of daybreak, as the morning star rises, thresholds other than night to day are broken. Reality returns and with it a wistful awareness of a loss of the other. The dreamlike and hallucinatory are overcome by a confrontation of the self where one can emerge enlightened as with St John of the Cross or fallen as with so many romantic heroes from throughout history. Indeed, Shepherd's canvases might be populated by lost icons and anti-heroes such as Hesse, Redon, Shelley, Blake or Wagner or more contemporaneously Jack Kerouac, Keith Richards or Charles Manson. 'The sleep of reason brings forth monsters', cautioned Goya and Shepherd outlines that escapism, individualism and heroism, and the drives of the intuitive and the unconscious can bring egotism, destruction and excess as well as beauty, magic and discovery, thus simultaneously enticing and forewarning.

Please contact gallery for images and further information

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#### Biographical:

Born: 1966

Education: 1994 – 1995: MA in Painting, Chelsea College of Art and Design; 1985 – 1988: BA (Hons) in Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art and Design

Selected Exhibitions: 2010: The Future Can Wait (curated by Zavier Ellis & Simon Rumley), Shoreditch Town Hall, London; Mycelium (one person), The Arts University College at Bournemouth; Territories, Galerie Schuster, Miami; Papyrophilia, CHARLIE SMITH london, London; DEMONOLOGY, CHARLIE SMITH london, London; New British Painting, Gallery Kalhama & Piippo Contemporary, Helsinki; 2009: In the Country of the Blind (one person), Galerie Schuster, Berlin; New London School (curated by Zavier Ellis & Simon Rumley), Galerie Schuster, Berlin; 2007: Meeting Place, Russell Cotes Art Gallery & Museum, Bournemouth

Collections: Paula Granoff, Providence, Rhode Island; Steve Shane, NYC; Markus Winzer, Untersiemau; Private collections in Germany, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom & United States









