

Ryan Hewett
Nothing New Under The Sun

21 November 2019 – 11 January 2020
At The Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas.



Close up of *La Femme V*, 2019

This November, The Goss-Michael Foundation (Dallas) is proud to present *Nothing New Under The Sun*, a showcase of eight new works by renowned South African artist Ryan Hewett, from Unit London.

Described by critic Edward Lucie-Smith as 'one of South Africa's most distinguished painters today', Hewett's exhibition features work created especially for the foundation and leaves us to ponder existential questions about the role of humanity and its place in the natural world. This new body of work by Ryan Hewett is a continuation of themes explored in the Unit London exhibition, *'New Paintings'*, with increasingly dehumanised figures portrayed in isolating landscapes, reminiscent of Francis Bacon's utopian vision of Atlantis. As human figures are reduced to animalistic likenesses, Hewett imagines the uncharted future of our species and planet with a distinct impartiality as to whether we should be hopeful or fearful of our future.

Using a variety of oil painting techniques, from brushes to knives, Hewett's extensive knowledge draws on renowned movements within art history. Hewett's structured forms and psychedelic colours allude to Cubist portraits and Surrealist landscapes, while his body-length portraits recall Renaissance medical diagrams of the human anatomy.

Kenny Goss, co-founder of The Goss-Michael Foundation, said, 'I became acquainted with Ryan Hewett's terrific work through my friends Joe and Jonny, Directors at Unit London. His use of colour and abstract shapes really speak to me. I'm confident Dallas art lovers will be drawn to all the pieces.' Joe Kennedy and Jonny Burt, founders of Unit London said, 'It's a privilege for us to be back here in Dallas with one of the first artists to join the Unit London roster. We share the values of the Goss-Michael Foundation which is dedicated to showcasing the best international artistic talent and giving them a deserved platform.'

The exhibition follows The Goss-Michael Foundation's interest in a diverse selection of contemporary artists. Founded in 2007 by the late music icon George Michael and Kenny Goss, it has since exhibited artwork by artists including: Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst, Marc Quinn and Sir Michael Craig-Martin, making it a custodian of one of the leading British art collections in the US.

This exhibition also marks Goss-Michael Foundation's and Unit London's shared cultural curiosity in art with exceptional aesthetic and conceptual depth. In March 2019, Unit London worked with the Foundation in MTV's *RE:DEFINE* art auction and gala to help raise funds for the HIV/AIDS prevention and education charity supported by George Michael. In aid of the GMF's Artist-In-Residence programme, Unit London's founders, Joe Kennedy and Jonny Burt acted as Art Chairs for the *RE:DEFINE* Award. Together, Unit London and the GMF championed stylistically innovative artists, a mutual passion which is once again realised through this dynamic compilation of Ryan Hewett's artwork.

NOTES TO EDITORS

RYAN HEWETT

Renowned for his brooding and evocative paintings, for South African born Hewett, the portrait is not about capturing an external likeness of a subject, but rather creating a portal to the inner journey of self-exploration. The striking works are created using a range of tools, including knives, brushes and paint rollers. To date, Hewett has presented three solo exhibitions in South Africa, one in New York and two at Unit London. The demand for his paintings continues to grow steadily, both locally and abroad. He has participated in group exhibitions in many major cities including: Berlin, London, Paris, Sydney, Hong Kong and New York, and his paintings have been presented at various art fairs including SCOPE Miami (2013-2014); FNB Joburg Art Fair (2013-2014); Cape Town Art Fair (2013-2018); Fountain Art Fair, Chicago (2014); Sydney Contemporary (2015); LA Art Show (2015); Art Central Hong Kong (2016); Volta NY (2017) and AKA (Also Known As Africa), Paris (2017).

THE GOSS-MICHAEL FOUNDATION

The Goss-Michael Foundation was founded by the late music icon George Michael and Kenny Goss in 2007. It exhibits artwork owned by Kenny Goss, which includes many important artists in contemporary art including Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst, Marc Quinn and Sir Michael Craig-Martin. In addition, The Goss-Michael Foundation supports an Artist-in-Residence program, is actively involved in many charitable causes and events, and exhibits select international artists on a rotating basis. The Goss-Michael Foundation is registered as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the US.



Masquerade, 2019



Her, 2019

UNIT LONDON

Unit London remains firmly committed to its core principles that art should be celebrated, inclusive and undivided. Founded in 2013, Unit London was born from an innate desire to break down the barriers of elitism and create new innovative pathways into the contemporary art world, recognised for its pioneering approach to digital media and role in expanding and diversifying audiences using new technologies.

Since its inception, Unit London has strived to provide a unique and experimental platform for the world's most distinctive emerging talent, showcasing their work to a culturally curious audience across the globe.

Exhibition Ryan Hewett 'Nothing New Under The Sun'
Dates 21 November 2019 – 11 January 2020
Venue Details The Goss-Michael Foundation, 1305 Wycliff Ave #120, Dallas, TX 75207, United States
Thurs-Fri from 10:00 - 16:00, Saturday from 13:00 - 17:00 and by appointment.

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