



# Haunt

*Nicola Scott*

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## Nicola Scott

### Opening

Friday 13 May, 6pm – 9pm

### Exhibition dates

10 May – 21 May 2016

In this exhibition, 'haunt' refers to revisited spaces, psychological preoccupation, and the manifestation of the past within the present.

My works mingle elements of figuration and abstraction, drawing on certain mystical or religious ideals that are associated with these lineages. Abstract expressionism and colour field painting in particular have been linked to discussions of transcendence. On the other hand, figuration as a longstanding Western artistic tradition is tied in various ways to biblical imagery, values regarding beauty and morality, and the expression of identity or selfhood.

Haunted by artistic influences from both lineages, these paintings examine the anxious optimism with which some non-religious individuals chase meaning, beauty, and transcendence in our contemporary lives. Imagery drawn from photographs and memories of fleeting highs - found on holidays, at house parties, through intoxication or physical intimacy, and often documented online - are layered with references to shrines, religious symbology, apparitions, monochromes and voids, to suggest moments of mysticism or reverence in the everyday.

Image: *ghost (rose-coloured glasses)* 2016, oil on bard, 20 x 12cm © the artist

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