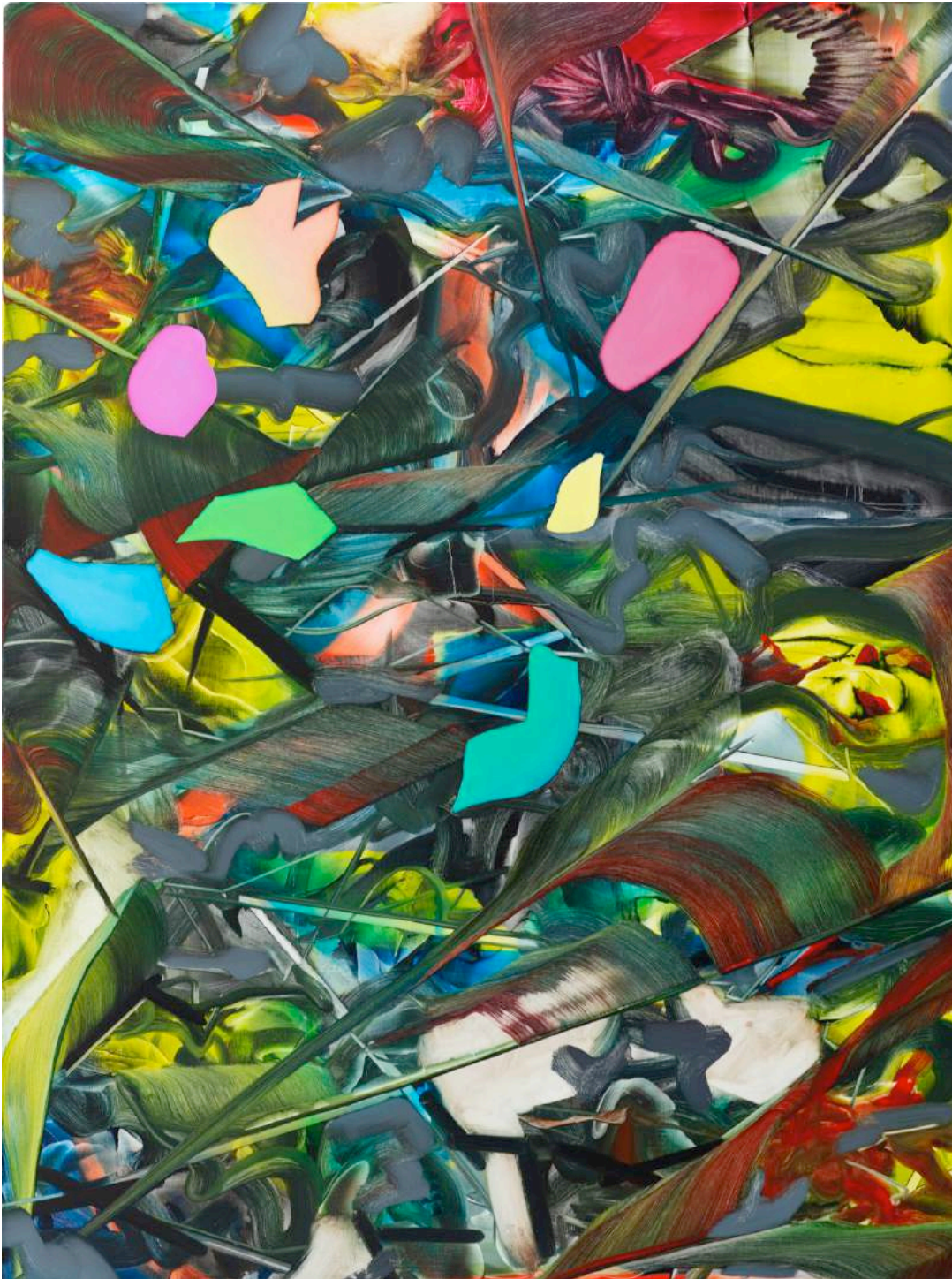


Andy Harper: Plastic Fox



*Pocket of Straws*  
Oil on linen  
160 x 120 cm  
2018

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*Blind-stitched*  
Oil on linen  
160 x 120 cm  
2018

Andy Harper's latest works hit us with full force. Frenetic, busy and manic in parts, the paintings from Harper's second solo exhibition *Plastic Fox* display every feature that makes his work distinctive: dense compositions full of detail and depth, complex and dynamic interplays between colour and gesture, light and shadow, executed in a pulsating, almost exuberant application of paint.

Gestural brushstrokes in diluted layers of oil paint, accomplished in glamorous lilac to luscious red, bright pink to striking blue and green, set a concentrated arrangement of dynamic traces and finely drawn lines in motion and carry us away into the realms of the fantastic, the organic, the abstract. An overabundance of visual information effectively dictates us to take a step back every now and then, pause for a moment, before once more immersing in these enchanted and mystical sceneries.

Thematically, Harper returns to a set of forms and subjects that he constantly references in his oeuvre since his early career: motifs from botany, organic shapes and vibrant colours, which combine to semi-abstract arrangements. However, the new series of mostly large format paintings goes beyond the earlier energetic, balanced and beautiful compositions. Certain works, such as *Something is happening that is not happening at all*, refuse to be easily accessible and possess a rather gaudy and flamboyant, if not harsh quality. The picture planes are vigorously and intentionally disturbed, crossed out or scribbled over.

Harper's oeuvre often reveals a restless, voracious and experimental spirit; also in *Plastic Fox* he opens up to new adventures. Works like *Pocket of Straws* or *Blind Stitched* play with monochrome - colourful or white - blocked out masked shapes that populate the picture surface and interrupt the image flow. It links back to an older series of small format works that was presented in *Soft Errors*, the artist's first solo exhibition at the gallery. These works from 2016 experimented with a more informal and stereotyped language of forms, also integrating text and imagery from pop culture. Harper references their accessible, almost graphic aesthetic but contrasts it with a reinforced concentration on the painterly process itself.

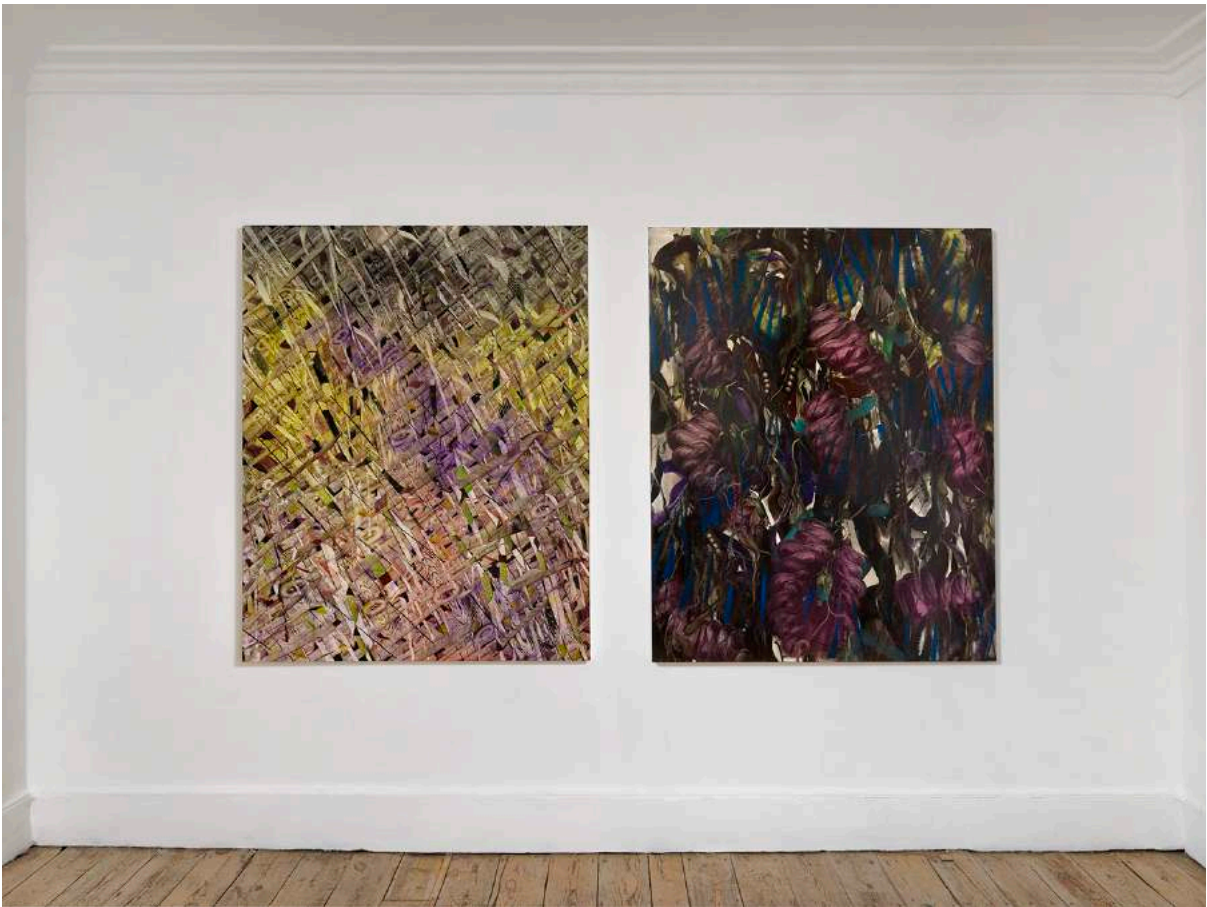
Harper's works often alternate in style or manner. They can differ enormously in composition and colour as well as general image feel even though some of the works were made in close dialogue with one another. These recent paintings can be read as a coherent set of works, even as a series, but they can also be seen and experienced as totally individual, separate entities.



Installation view at Patrick Heide Contemporary Art



*Chemical Boyhood*  
Oil on canvas  
75 x 60 cm  
2018



Installation view at Patrick Heide Contemporary Art

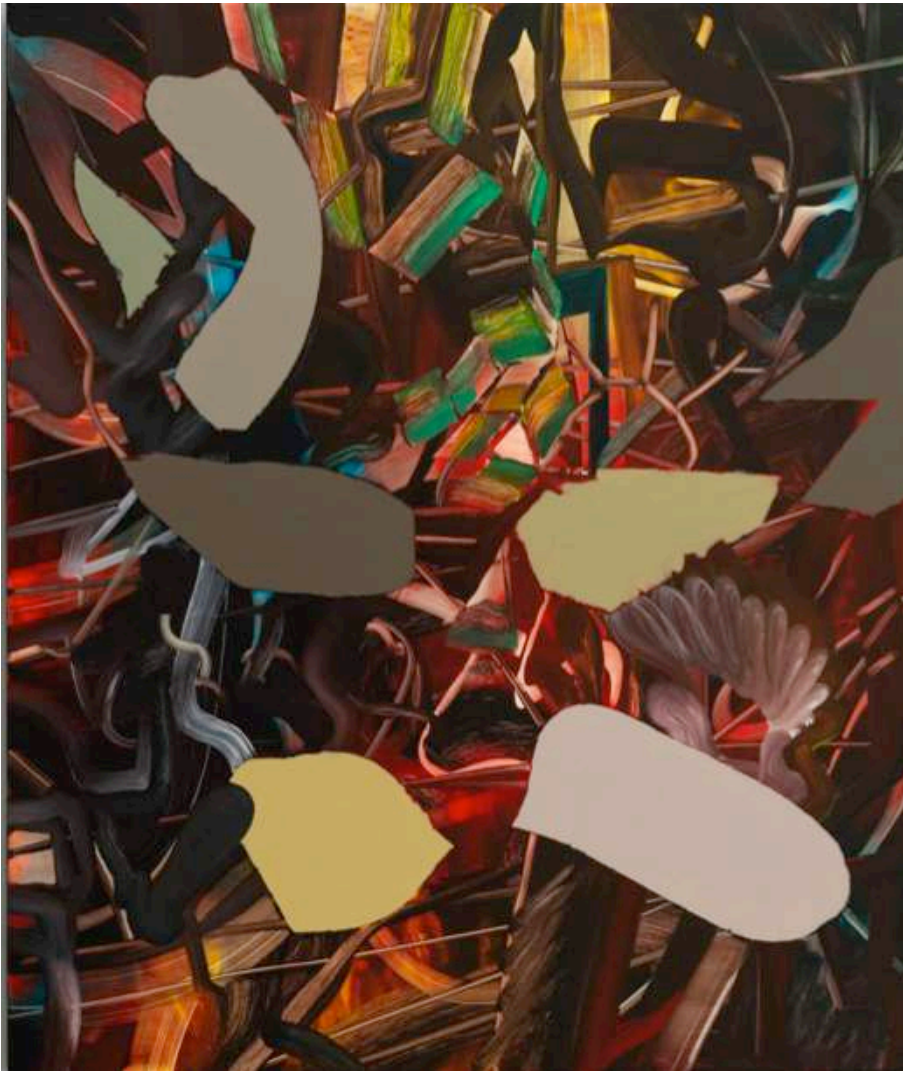


*Pockets of Predictability*  
Oil on canvas  
150 x 120 cm  
2017



*East Spots - West Tubes*  
Oil on canvas  
150 x 120 cm  
2018





*Fit for Hobby*  
Oil on canvas  
58 x 49 cm  
2018

Andy Harper was born in the United Kingdom in 1971. He received his BA from Brighton Polytechnic, a Master's Degree in Fine Art from the Royal College of Art, and a Master's Degree in Visual Culture from Middlesex University. Harper lives in Cornwall and has exhibited extensively throughout Asia, Europe and the US.