

WHAT NEXT?

Introducing the work of three artists you should keep an eye on.



ALAN IBELL

Why pay attention?

Auckland-based painter **Alan Ibell** is rapidly emerging in Australasia as a major artist. He has shown in Melbourne with Tinning Street Presents, c3, and Rubicon ARI, and in 2015 he was awarded the Arte Studio Ginestrelle International Artist and Writers Residency in Mount Subasio, Assisi, Italy. His work is represented in the Wallace Trust Collection, Auckland.

What do they do?

Ibell paints stylised, dreamlike scenes in a pastel, black and white palette that often seems to invoke the Quattrocento and the Rococo with an unsettling, ambiguous edge. It is philosophical painting, recalling the intensely psychological paintings of **Giorgio de Chirico** and **Paul Devaux**.

What's going on?

Ibell develops his ongoing engagement with the canvas as a notional confining space. Within this frame small, stylised figures and objects in vast spaces are fixed over the course of the painting process. Confinement is a reoccurring motif represented by symbolic birds, books and compositional treatment.

The artist says...

“My aim is to strike a balance between formal abstraction and narrative figuration. My work often depicts an unconscious space that is tonally reminiscent of a dream or an anxiety. Though my recent process has led me towards a reduction of the figurative and narrative elements, I am currently working on a series that confronts that trajectory and pushes for a more saturated space within the works.”

See it at...

Ibell's exhibition *Ascendants* shows at Sanderson Contemporary Art, Auckland from 20 April to 16 May 2021.

Andrew Wood



OPPOSITE: Alan Ibell, *The Return*, 2021. Acrylic on canvas, 56 x 56cm.

ABOVE: Alan Ibell, *View from a Window II*, 2020. Acrylic on canvas, 62.5 x 45.5cm.

LEFT: Alan Ibell, *House at Night*, 2020. Acrylic on canvas, 108 x 142.5cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND SANDERSON CONTEMPORARY ART, AUCKLAND.