

# MATT'S GALLERY

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## Press release

**Matthew Krishanu** B. Bradford, 1980, lives and works in London. **Education 2009** MA Fine Art, Central Saint Martins **2001** BA(Hons) Fine Art and Literature, Exeter University **Selected Solo Exhibitions 2019** *The Sun Never Sets*, MAC, Birmingham; *A Murder of Crows*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham **2018** *The Sun Never Sets*, Huddersfield Art Gallery, Huddersfield **2013** *Mission*, St. Marylebone Crypt Gallery, London **Selected Group Exhibitions 2019** *Too Cute!* (curated by Rachel Maclean), Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; *Childhood Now* (with Chantal Joffe and Mark Fairington), Compton Verney, Warwickshire; *Made in Britain*, The National Museum in Gdańsk, Poland **2018** *John Moores Painting Prize 2018*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; *In the City*, East Gallery, Norwich; Stephen Lawrence Gallery, London; *Highlights from the Permanent Collection*, Ko-mechak Art Gallery, Chicago, Illinois **2017** *Contemporary Masters from Britain*, Yantai Art Museum; Artall Gallery & Jiangsu Art Gallery, Nanjing; Tianjin Academy of Fine Art, China; *Contemporary Painting: In Good Health*, Menier Gallery, London; *Anything Goes* (curated by Anna McNay), Bermondsey Project Space, London **2016** *Contemporary British Painting*, Quay Arts, Isle of Wight; *Aviary*, Transition Gallery, London; *Dentons Art Prize*, Dentons, London; *Contemporary British Watercolours*, Oriol Gallery, Antrim, N. Ireland **2015** *Contemporary Drawings from Britain*, XAFA, Xi'an Province, China; *London Painters' Survey*, Artworks Project Space, London **2014** *Griffin Art Prize*, Griffin Gallery & White Moose Gallery, Devon; *Priseman-Seabrook Collection*, Huddersfield Art Gallery; *Home*, Crossley Gallery, Dean Clough, Halifax; *Another Country* (with Cara Nahaul), The Nunnery, London **2013** *We Were Trying to Make Sense...*, 1 Shanthiroad, Bangalore, India; *Marmite Prize for Painting IV*, Central Art Gallery, Thameside; Mackintosh Museum, Glasgow; Ruskin Gallery, Cambridge; The Gallery at Plymouth College of Art; Tannery Arts at Drawing Room, London **2011** *The Marmite Prize for Painting III*, Central Art Gallery, Thameside; Lancaster Gallery Projects, Coventry; The Nunnery, London

## Matthew Krishanu *House of Crows*

**30 March - 7 April 2019, open daily 12-6pm**  
**Opening: Friday 29 March 2019, 6-9pm**

Matt's Gallery presents *House of Crows*, an exhibition of paintings by Matthew Krishanu.

Krishanu, who was born in the UK and emigrated to Dhaka in the 1980s, frequently draws on memories of his childhood in Bangladesh where his parents worked for the Church. His paintings often reference religious themes, depicting churches, missionaries and Christian rites; they are dreamlike, disarming and quietly unsettling.

This exhibition centres around two series of images that the painter has been developing over a number of years: *House of God*, which depicts landscapes punctuated by the crosses of churches, and *Crow*, a series begun in 2012.

Krishanu's crows are painted at small scale in oil or acrylic on board. Never caught in flight, they stand, stride and perch, at times in profile, at others facing you down head on. The paintings are stark, often comprising densely worked tonal textures of black on black, with shades of darkest blues and browns worked in, set against pale washes of background. Their close cropping gives the skeletal forms of the birds an abstract quality; when grouped, the paintings reveal their individual idiosyncrasies.

The crows have an anthropomorphic quality, by turns menacing, endearing and comical. The series now numbers over 40 paintings in total.

Krishanu sees parallels between his *Crow* and *House of God* series, both of which are devoid of humans. In *House of God*, the focus is brought to the simple form of the Christian cross. Krishanu is interested in the ambivalent relationship we may have to this symbol. As with the crows, its symbolic quality is loaded, evoking a multitude of potential reactions in the viewer.

Krishanu has been invited to install a number of works from these series in response to the 3x3x3 metre cubic gallery space at 92 Webster Road.

For further information or visual material please contact us on 020 7237 0398 or email [info@mattsgallery.org](mailto:info@mattsgallery.org).

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[www.mattsgallery.org](http://www.mattsgallery.org)



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