

# KNIGHT WEBB GALLERY | LONDON

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Press Release

Artist: Christian Furr

'The Humble Cheese'

Knight Webb Gallery

Dates: 28 April 2016 - 31 May 2016

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*'I want these simple cheeses to capture the breadth of human experience and emotion.'*



'Melting Petit Langres' 2010 22 x 16 cm Oil on Wood

London based Christian Furr has painted the humble cheese for over a decade. The cheese has become his metaphor for simplicity, tradition and artisan dedication; all of which are attributes many critics have associated with the artist's own oil painting practice.



'Baby Bel' 2014 28 x 25 cm Oil on Wood

The stench of a ripe, rare cheese is not an easy thing to convey through the medium of paint, however Furr manages not only to achieve this, but to highlight the individuality of each of the peculiar cheese family. The texture, ripeness and colour of individual cheeses, is rendered in deft brush strokes and glazes, leaving us in no doubt as to the nature and flavour of this subject.

*'Like a person, before I paint a cheese I research it and get to know it.. Each cheese has it's individual skin, veins and aroma. I am interested in a cheese's strange beauty, and I no longer consider cheese to be an unusual subject. I believe there should be no limits to what you can turn your attention to. I have always been a fan of the understated.'*

Furr focuses on keeping oil paint a fresh, living medium, through experimentation and the exploration of new concepts. He examines everyday objects in search for their essential nature, be it a flower, a milk bottle or a measure of cheese.

As a consummate paint-handler, Christian's influences are remarkably diverse. His inspiration may come from a fragment of Rumi poetry or a lyric from The Doors. The symbols of his far-reaching interests find their way into his work, sometimes overtly, sometimes discretely.



'Cabro d'Or' 2013 25 x 20 cm Oil on Wood

*'I look at what is before me and my response is visceral.'*

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*'On the window ledge in front of the beautiful decaying Georgian wallpaper, a half bottle of milk had gone off, so I decided to paint it. As I painted, I mused on the origin of cheese.'*

*'Why not paint cheese? Cheese is not often painted. I decided to paint the artisan cheeses of Great Britain and France. The textural quality of the cheese can be portrayed beautifully with thick, creamy impasto oil paint. A good cheese is a pleasure to look at. If its a soft one and begins to melt, it will force me to work quickly to capture the moment.'*

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*'I want my cheese paintings to have all the drama of Opera'*

- Christian Furr