

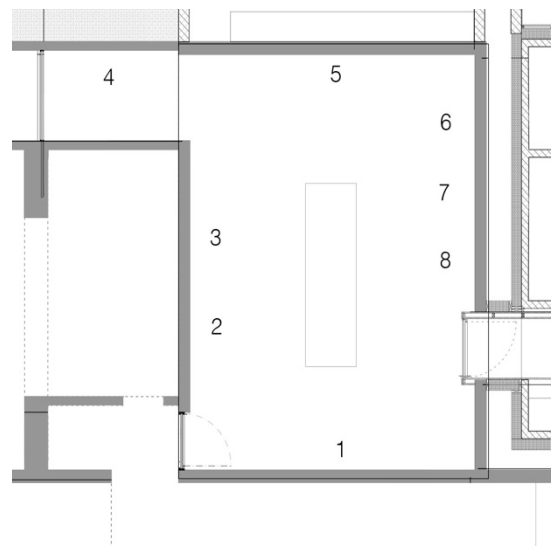
Jonathan Parsons: *The Black Drawings*

26 – 29 August 2022, The Bunker Gallery

This exhibition presents a series of drawings that the artist has been working on for more than ten years. Jonathan Parsons is known for the diversity of his practice, which includes installation, sculpture, found objects, fabrication and land art. The core of his artistic activity, though, is drawing and painting in the studio. Whilst he was developing many other projects during the last decade – some of which were large-scale and public – he has also been slowly, quietly and steadily making these drawings, all of which are shown together here for the first time. Each of the *Black Drawings* is made using the same straightforward basic artists' materials: graphite pencil on paper. However, Parsons' application of these materials is far from ordinary. He uses a meticulous technique of non-gestural and highly refined drawing to depict gestural graffiti tags and markings that he has found on the streets and documented photographically. All of his source material has a liquid and dripping quality, which is faithfully and convincingly captured in the final drawings. Because of this, the drawings have a paradoxical character. They appear to be free-flowing, painterly, gestural and liquid, but they have actually been painstakingly produced using an entirely dry medium that is typically associated with linear drawing methods. The drawings themselves appear to be abstract, as they depict abstract symbols and letterforms, but they can be more accurately described as instances of hyperrealism. The *Black Drawings* are Parsons' private obsession and they constitute an incredibly time consuming and intense 'side project' that ultimately reveals itself to be at the very heart of his working philosophy as an artist.

List of works on display in the Bunker Gallery

1. **Black Drawing for PMH: Rash Trash** (2015)
graphite pencil on mould made paper in hand-painted frame; drawing: 57 x 75.5 cm
2. **Black Drawing for DEP: Amer** (2022)
graphite pencil on mould made paper in hand-painted frame; drawing: 57 x 75.5 cm
3. **Black Drawing for FB: Regina** (2014)
graphite pencil on mould made paper in hand-painted frame; drawing: 57 x 45 cm
4. **Boaz and Jachin** (2016)
graphite pencil on white paper in hand-painted frame; drawing: 14.8 x 10.5 cm
5. **Black Drawing for SE: Soak** (2016)
graphite pencil on mould made paper in hand-painted frame; drawing: 57 x 75.5 cm
6. **Black Drawing for FB: Vins** (2012)
graphite pencil on mould made paper in hand-painted frame; drawing: 75.5 x 57 cm
7. **Black Drawing for FB: Cut Arrow** (2009)
graphite pencil on mould made paper in hand-painted frame; drawing: 42.5 x 57 cm
8. **Black Drawing for BG: Wars** (2022)
graphite pencil on mould made paper in hand-painted frame; drawing: 42.5 x 57 cm



Additional works

9. **Amer** (2022)
archival pigment print on 220gsm cotton rag paper, 37.7 x 29.7 cm; unframed edition of 10
10. **Rash Trash** (2022)
archival pigment print on 220gsm cotton rag paper, 38.5 x 29.7 cm; unframed edition of 10
11. **Regina** (2022)
archival pigment print on 220gsm cotton rag paper, 29.7 x 38 cm; unframed edition of 10
12. **Soak** (2022)
archival pigment print on 220gsm cotton rag paper, 38 x 29.7 cm; unframed edition of 10
13. **Cut Arrow** (2022)
archival pigment print on 220gsm cotton rag paper, 35.3 x 29.7 cm; unframed edition of 10
14. **Hazard Drawing: 125 Million** (2012)
colour pencil on paper in aluminium frame, 22.3 x 36.2 cm
15. **Hazard Drawing: 370 Thousand** (2012)
colour pencil on paper in aluminium frame, 32 x 36 cm
16. **Hazard Drawing: 91 Million** (2012)
colour pencil on paper in aluminium frame, 23 x 30.5 cm
17. **Hazard Drawing: 34.3 Million** (2012)
colour pencil on paper in aluminium frame, 41 x 30.7 cm
18. **Freebase** (2004)
oil on linen, 71 x 71 cm
19. **Chromaticity (3)** (2016)
oil on linen, 76 x 76 cm
20. **Good Shit Painting (Diacetylmorphine)** (2003)
oil on linen, 33 x 33 cm

Jonathan Parsons was selected for the *British Art Show 5* (2000) and was one of the youngest artists to be included in the notorious *Sensation* exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts (1997), which toured to Berlin and New York. He co-curated *Seeing Round Corners* for Turner Contemporary, Margate (2016), which attracted more than 150,000 visitors. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Scribble and the Structures of Depiction*, Hardwick Gallery, Cheltenham (2021), the land art piece *Fossil Ocean Floor*, Dorking, Surrey (2018) and *New Paintings*, New Art Projects, London (2014). Recent group exhibitions include: *Pacific Breeze II*, White Conduit Projects, London (2021), *Agency*, Eagle Gallery, London (2018), *Abstract Remix*, New Art Projects, London (2017), *The Order of Things*, The Wilson, Cheltenham (2017) and *Mechanical Abstract*, Turps Gallery, London (2016).