

Apparitions Of The Past and Future (2020)

My ongoing meditations on the theme of Migration have been focused on capturing the disordered emotions that arise when we disconnect from people in our current environment. In the act of relocating we forcibly sever our habitual relationships, a brutal amputation, which can be painful and destabilising.

This process engenders a significant sense of loss. Just as we consign a trace of ourself to the minds of people we have left behind, the imprints of others' resonate in our minds long after the physical separation, and these continue to exert an imperceptible influence. These traces assume the form of spectres, haunting us at unforeseen moments, often materialising in incomprehensible dream scenarios.

The cycle of disconnection, and subsequent attempt at reconnection in a different place, causes our identity to become fragmented over time, provoking a feeling of alienation from people whose lives have been less disjointed. Utilising the most durable of our memory remnants, we write and rewrite, edit and re-edit, our personal narrative. Loss and fragmentation, byproducts of those processes, begin to define the future as well as the past.

In *Apparitions Of The Past And Future*, the ghostlike figures merge into each other, and as the viewer scans the painting details of the silhouettes emerge from the confusion of form, and then submerge again. The figures are deliberately indistinct, and it is open to interpretation whether they are fading in or out of view. The direction of travel is also ambiguous, if they are moving away from, or towards, the viewer is not known. I aimed to illustrate the hollowness of being an outsider, haunted by apparitions past and future, looking wistfully on an elusive world that may never fully emerge, but may also never fully disappear.