



s m a c  
art gallery

JAKE AIKMAN  
AT THE QUIET LIMIT

SMAC Art Gallery is proud to present *At the Quiet Limit*, a solo exhibition of new works by Jake Aikman. *At the Quiet Limit* is comprised of Aikman's well-known renditions of nature and signature seascapes, whilst introducing new veins, partly inspired by his recent trip to Central America. This is Aikman's third exhibition with the gallery, and is accompanied by a catalogue of selected works.

The exhibition and the catalogue takes the form of an uncharted artistic journey, reminiscent of Conrad, Coppola and Herzog, as Aikman moves gradually deeper into his subject, unveiling both stylistic and conceptual complexity. Eerie and silent, a post-apocalyptic world is scarcely inhabited. Isolated, solitary figures and traces of human presence are placed in context before the overwhelming magnitude of nature. Remote coastlines, impenetrable forests, volcanic plumes and darkly ominous waters suggest a violent reckoning between humans and nature.

Besides the unequivocal environmental message underpinning the work, Aikman delves deeper, posing inevitable existential questions. We are aware as the audience that the context of these captured spaces is not completely 'real.' Although each painting is titled as a specific geographical location (as a grid coordinate), the audience slowly becomes aware that they are standing in front of a suspended context, a scene which is painted by an artist on his own investigative quest.

Like a powerful tidal cycle, the audience is drawn in and out of the enigmatic images, their vastness providing no explicit narrative. Aikman simultaneously creates tension and anticipation about what is about to happen or may already have taken place. The viewer is placed at the 'quiet limit,' and it is there in the absence of a narrative that Aikman's paintings can be both silently overwhelming and alarming in their quiescence.

Jake Aikman was born in London in 1978 and graduated with a Masters of Fine Art from the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town in 2008. He has participated in several local and international, group and solo exhibitions. In 2009 he was selected to participate in the major exhibition, *L'Anima Del Acqua: The Spirit of Water*, sponsored by the Italian government and presented at the Ca' d'Oro Palace as part of the 53rd Venice Biennale. He was also an invited artist to the 4th Beijing International Art Biennale in 2010.

This exhibition of the artist's new body of work follows the appearance of his paintings at the 2012 Olympic Fine Arts Exhibition, *Creative Cities Collection*, in association with the Chinese Ministry of Culture, held at the Barbican Centre in London, and in *The Seven Deadly Virtues*, an exhibition of new work by artists from the Absa L'Atelier Art Competition at the Absa 2013 KKNK (Klein Karoo National Art Festival), in Oudtshoorn.





*N 10.841399, W 85.875374*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
165 x 165 cm



*N10.839881, W85.874317*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
97 x 127 cm





*La Punta (El Salvador)*  
2012  
Oil on Canvas  
70 x 90.5 cm



*N 10.87045, W 85.90093*  
2012  
Oil on Canvas  
65 x 81 cm



*N10.841736, W85.873802*

2013

Oil on Canvas

165 x 165 cm



*N10.870396, W85.900925*

2013

Oil on Canvas

80 x 100 cm





*N10.854886, W85.917748*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
160 x 160 cm

*N10.862978, W86.017671*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
160 x 160 cm





*N10.858427, W85.930279* | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 160 x 160 cm



*N10.838881, W85.8854* | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 160 x 160 cm

*N10.839376, W85.8843*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
165 x 165 cm





*N10.871913, W85.902126* | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 147 x 205 cm





*N 10.752914, W 85.660492 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 151 x 212 cm*



*N 10.79482, W 85.674955 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 95 x 125 cm*

*N 11.091155, W 85.70212 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 95 x 125 cm*

*N 11.084375, W 85.711261 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 95 x 125 cm*



*N 13.200507, W 88.457161* | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 30.5 x 23 cm

*N 13.211203, W 88.438965* | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 30.5 x 23 cm

*N 13.204852, W 88.446175* | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 30.5 x 23 cm



*N13.230588, W88.526856*

2013

Oil on Canvas

75 x 95 cm



*N13.205855, W88.497673*

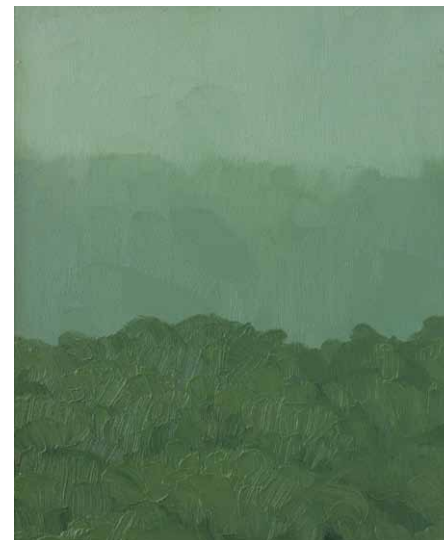
2013

Oil on Canvas

75 x 95 cm



*N13.273029, W88.615433*  
 2013  
 Oil on Canvas  
 51 x 61 cm



*N13.216885, W88.447205*  
 2013  
 Oil on Canvas  
 30.5 x 23 cm





*N11.442003, W85.507305*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
150 x 210 cm



N11.539739, W85.616997 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 228 x 350 cm



*N 11.53974, W 85.61698*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
61 x 76 cm



*N 11.53974, W 85.61719*  
 2013  
 Oil on Canvas  
 61 x 76 cm



*N 11.53974, W 85.61821*  
 2013  
 Oil on Canvas  
 61 x 76 cm



*N 10.708135, W 85.53136 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 25 x 35 cm*

*N10.800637, W85.550025 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 31 x 31 cm*





*N 10.807656, W 85.548051 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 25 x 35 cm*



*N 10.762843, W 85.544832 | 2013 | Oil on Canvas | 20.5 x 25 cm*



*N10.80108, W85.548974*  
 2013  
 Oil on Canvas  
 65 x 80 cm



*N10.746548, W85.546892*  
 2013  
 Oil on Canvas  
 25 x 25 cm

*N 10.776439, W 85.548781*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
60 x 60 cm



*N 10.84222, W 85.87555*  
2013  
Oil on Canvas  
165 x 165 cm





*N10.852083, W85.82095*

2013

Oil on Paper

50 x 61 cm





*N10.856614, W85.770889*  
 2013  
 Oil on Paper  
 31 x 40 cm



*N10.856614, W85.767309*  
 2013  
 Oil on Paper  
 31 x 40 cm



*N10.857036, W85.76954*  
 2013  
 Oil on Paper  
 31 x 40 cm



N 10.799183, W 85.551356  
 2013  
 Oil on Canvas  
 31 x 31 cm



*N10.856909, W85.770653*  
 2013  
 Oil on Paper  
 31 x 40 cm



*N10.857141, W85.77031*  
 2013  
 Oil on Paper  
 31 x 40 cm



*N10.856698, W85.775892*  
2013  
Oil on Paper  
31 x 40 cm



*N10.857036, W85.773446*  
2013  
Oil on Paper  
31 x 40 cm



*N10.856741, W85.775119*  
2013  
Oil on Paper  
31 x 40 cm

*N10.856993, W85.774132*  
2013  
Oil on Paper  
31 x 40 cm

