

Blackbird Rook presents...

VISAGE

11.01 - 14.02

Curated by Juan Bolivar

Christina Barrera, Juan Bolivar, Nicky Carvel, Mark Connolly, Cyan Dee, Oli Epp, Liam Fallon, Luis Rafael Galvez, Charlie Gray, John Greenwood, Des Lawrence, Rebecca Parkin, Anthony Piper, Miho Sato, Toby Ursell, Julie Verhoeven, Richard Wathen, Tom Worsfold.

Visage presents artists who share a fascination with faces, not necessarily portraits or a likeness, but a fascination with the face as an indexical repository of style. In the exhibition Visage the face is sometimes presented as a literal iteration of appearance or as metaphor: for 'face value', to 'lose face', to 'face-up', an 'interface', a 'face-lift', a 'façade', or a 'face-off'.

The exhibition borrows its name from 'Visage', the 80s synth-pop New Romantic band, whose original lineup included, amongst others, song writer Midge Ure and lead singer Steve Strange. Visage are best known for their hit single 'Fade to Grey'; a song described as a person's experience of feeling overwhelmed, alone in the world, struggling with life's challenges. The band's name 'Visage', meaning face, aptly coincides with changes in style in 80s Britain as 70s Punk, Mods and Rockers transitioned into splintering post-Punk movements and new aesthetics.

In his autobiography, 'Blitzed', Steve Strange maintains he came up with the name 'Visage' as a portmanteau combining 'Vis', which stood for the visual elements of the band, 'Visa', which represented the global aspirations of the band, and 'age', which symbolised the band's place in a new musical age. Although Strange's deconstruction of the band's name acts as a form of manifesto, a simpler meaning could encompass these changes in the faces of popular and wider culture. Shortly after the band's emergence, in 1980 Nick Logan spells out the changing attitudes and styles in this new panorama, in the iconic art, music and culture magazine 'The Face'.



Cyan Dee / Machiko Edmondson
Face Painting, 2023
Oil on canvas
107 × 93 cm



Christina Barrera
Nos Encontramos en la Calle II
(We Find Ourselves / Each Other on the Street II), 2020
Chalk Pastel, Charcoal on Paper
36"H x 30.5"W



Juan Bolivar
Trio, 2018
Acrylic on canvas
48 × 64 cm



Nicky Carvell
En Visage, 2013
Gigital Print on Adhesive Vinyl
76 × 100 cm



Mark Connolly
Portrait of the Undertaker - work in progress - image to be updated
Oil on canvas
210 x 180cm



Oli Epp
Wet Weather Warning, 2022
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
180 x 200cm



Liam Fallon
Core Strength, 2021
Jesmonite, MDF, timber, polyurethane foam, spray
paint 118 x 75 x 50cm



Luis Rafael Galvez
Mama's Boy, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
53.5 x 40.5cm



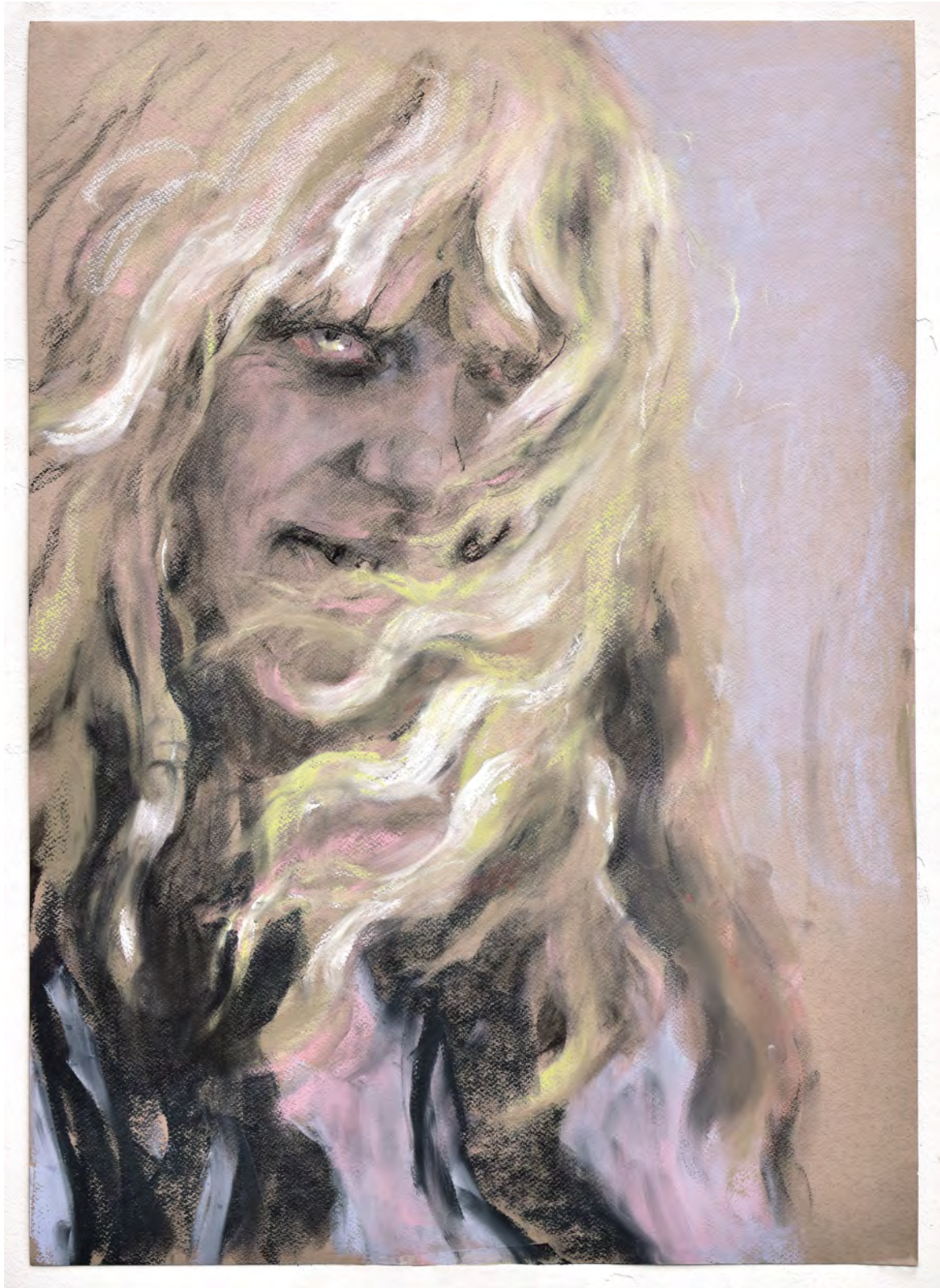
Charlie Gray
Steve Coogan, photographed with an Alan Partridge mask for Empire, 2015 Gelatin silver print
26 1/2 × 40 in | 67.3 × 101.6 cm
Frame included
Edition AP + 1AP



John Greenwood
God Save The Homunculus, 2021
Oil on linen
60 x 50 cm



Des Lawrence
Vic Allen, 2017
Enamel and oil on aluminium
53.5 × 48 cm



Rebecca Parkin
Calypso, 2023
Pastel on paper
70 x 50 cm



Anthony Piper
Sarah, 1996
Acrylic on board
41.5 x 55cm



Miho Sato
Run Away, 2020
Acrylic on board
46 × 61 cm



Toby Ursell
Milady de Winter, 2022
Oil on panel
64.5 × 50 cm



Julie Verhoeven
Life aint Pretty, 2023
Acrylic on paper
42 × 29.7 cm



Richard Wathen
Duet, 2023
Watercolour on 640gsm Hahnemuhle HP Paper
48 × 36 cm



Tom Worsfold
Dopamine, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
100 x 75 cm