

Iain Faulkner

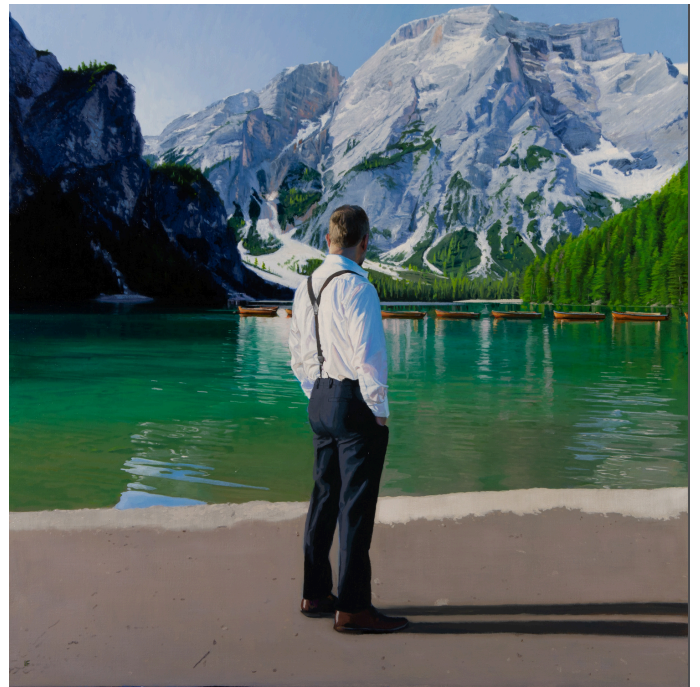
A Man Alone...

20 November 2024 – 11 January 2025
Pontone Gallery, 74 Newman Street, London,
W1T 3BN

Pontone Gallery is delighted to announce a solo exhibition featuring a new series of 19 paintings by renowned Scottish artist Iain Faulkner.

These images feature his trademark, solitary, male figure set in dramatic and picturesque landscape – in this case Alpine Italy, specifically Lake Como and Lago di Braies. On the shore, looking out over the water, stands Faulkner's protagonist, typically alone, brooding on a picturesque and sublime vista. In their staging such compositions make overt reference to romantic landscape painter, Casper David Friedrich's iconic 1818 masterpiece 'Wanderer above the Sea of Fog'. Faulkner's contemporary iteration of an existential hero in contemplation of nature is implicit and points to a similarly romantic desire to re-establish this archetypal character and locate him in the present day.

Faulkner's technique is an accomplished and painstaking masterclass in pictorial representation where attention is equally given to all aspects of the scene. There are no areas that are vague, all that is seen is dealt with and fully articulated. This clarity of view is achieved by his rigorous control and analytical application of tonal and colour values.



Lago di Braies Morning, 2024, Oil on canvas

This, in turn, is allied to a formal and exacting draughtsmanship that defines an exhaustive structural framework that forms the bare bones of each carefully thought-out arrangement. The artist's desire to make the real and the tangible drives his vision so that we are in no doubt about the nature of the picture he is painting and his intentions in doing so.

The man in the paintings is, of course, the artist. These are self-portraits, but somewhat humble and self-effacing, as we do not see his face. Always dressed in the same clothes – a snow-white shirt, black trousers and braces, stout shoes – Faulkner comes across as an 'everyman', certainly not 'bohemian' as many would depict themselves. We join him in his view of the world, he asks us to stand with him and look over his shoulder to see what he sees and to share his wonder.



About the artist

Iain Faulkner (b. 1973, Scotland) is a contemporary Scottish painter known for his evocative oil paintings that explore themes of introspection and solitude. His paintings often depict lone male figures engaged in quiet moments of reflection, emphasising themes of solitude, memory, and the passage of time.

A graduate of the Glasgow School of Art, Faulkner employs a subdued palette dominated by cool tones of black, grey, and white, using chiaroscuro to create striking contrasts between light and shadow. His figures, often himself dressed in formal attire caught in states of preoccupation, exude a timeless quality that transcends specific cultural or historical contexts. Influenced by masters like Sargent and Vermeer, Faulkner's work resonates with a sense of alienation and resilience, evoking the romantic spirit of modern-day heroes.

With a strong connection to the artistic traditions of the past, Faulkner's work is both contemporary and classic. With an international reputation, his paintings have garnered acclaim in numerous solo exhibitions across Europe and the USA and are highly sought after by collectors.

Pontone Gallery represents the artist.

Artist at the presentation of his portraits of the European team of the Ryder Cup, 2010

Viewing Room

