

**JOY**  
**GEORGE**  
**FOR**  
**MORTON**  
**CLARK**  
**NOW**

OPERA GALLERY

# JOY, FOR NOW

**GEORGE MORTON-CLARK**

14 - 31 January, 2022

OPERA GALLERY

# FOREWORD

Opera Gallery Singapore is delighted to present *Joy, for now*, a collection of new works by British artist George Morton-Clark, in his first ever solo exhibition in Singapore. To coincide with Singapore Art Week, this exhibition is a reimagination of the little pockets of creativity and joy in our everyday lives.

*Joy, for now* is as the title suggests, a roll-off-the-tongue joy, a celebration of run-of-the-mill moments. We live in a world where it is easy to ruminate on the past too much and worry about uncertainties around every corner. But for now, there is a kind of joy that exists, always within reach if we just look, even if it means forgetting the world for one instant. Joy is experiencing everything fully and wholeheartedly at the present moment. Collectively, we have all learned to never take anything for granted anymore, to recognise that the little things are never unimportant.

In this series, Morton-Clark's characters are often tantalising syntheses of abstract elements, all living in and navigating their own mysterious universe of chance encounters and ambiguous happenings. But there are no guises and no charades; just honest characters perhaps each with their own allegorical stories. They tell tales of a familiar sensation of wanting to be everything at once; to experience all extents of joy in short moments, which Morton-Clark beautifully captures. He embraces the unspoken juxtaposition between the whirlwind of adventures and openheartedness of his characters.

Just like a flower that blooms in a hostile environment, Morton-Clark's works represent hope, vitality and strength through an engagement with unfiltered imagination and child-like curiosity. Dr. Rolf Lauter (former Deputy Director, MMK Frankfurt) said it best, that Morton-Clark "presents pieces that resemble comfortable and fun times spent laughing and talking to close friends". Sometimes joy is that simple. Sometimes joy is always acknowledging the good in moments, no matter how small. Sometimes a memory; or a reminder of life and its intricacies; even just a glimpse of one magical moment, can feel more magnetic than any grand theme.

Opera Gallery Singapore invites you to join us in an exploration of George Morton-Clark's world of infinite possibilities, while together we rethink our simple, everyday *joy, for now*.

GILLES DYAN  
Founder & Chairman  
Opera Gallery Group

STÉPHANE LE PELLETIER  
Director, Asia-Pacific  
Opera Gallery Asia-Pacific

IRENE CHEE  
Gallery Manager  
Opera Gallery Singapore

OPERA GALLERY



**Kermit Moonlighting**  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Venus Skin Food  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Mr Chows  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
300 x 190 cm | 118 x 74.8 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio

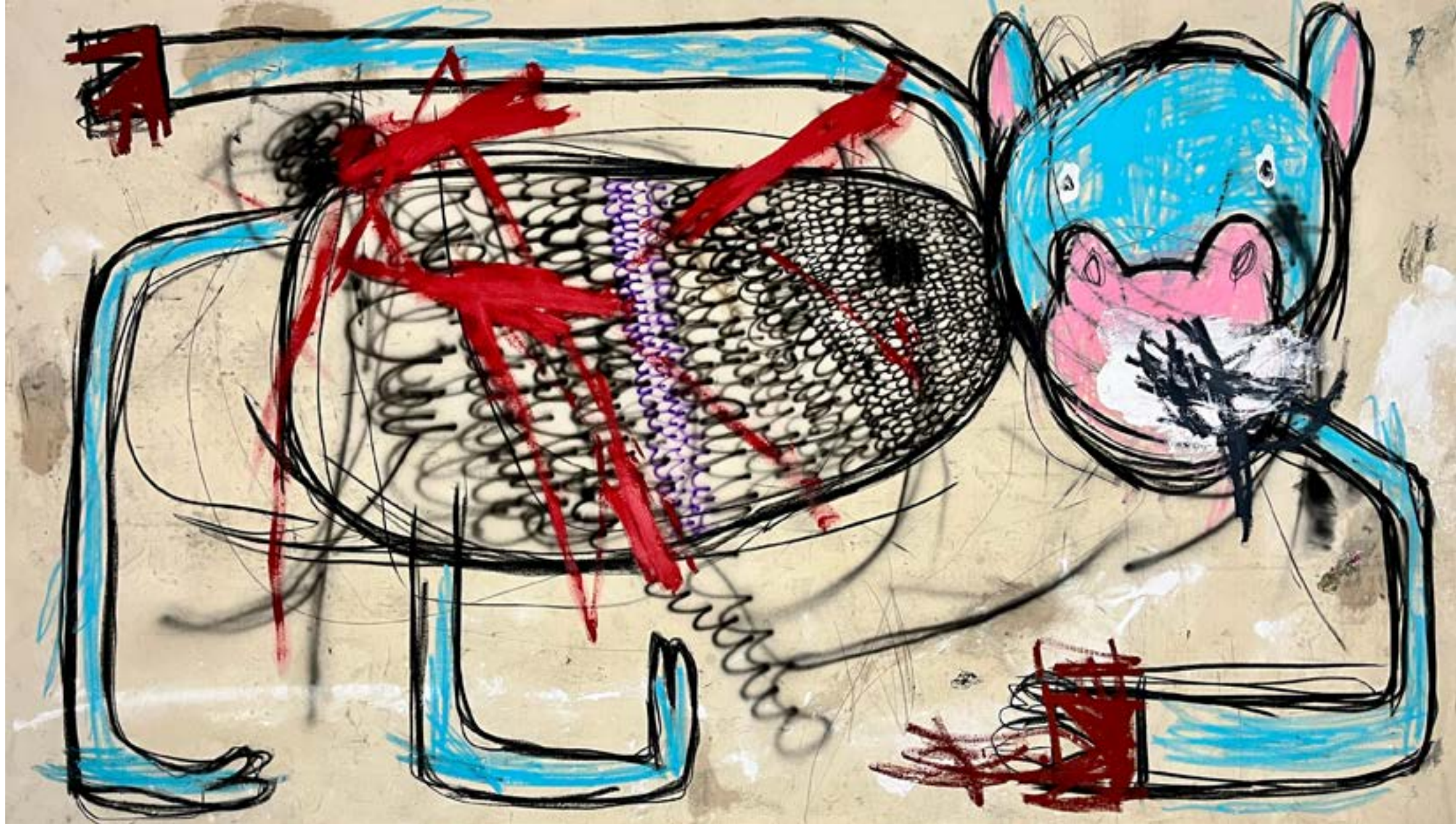




Dancing on your Laurels  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
300 x 190 cm | 118 x 74.8 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Bear Temper**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
150 x 120 cm | 59 x 47.2 cm

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Broken Inflatable**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Badly Drawn Superhero**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Fried Eyes  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Flaking Friday Night**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Beauty is in the Eyes of the Beholder  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Counterfeit Ready**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
210 x 170 cm | 82.6 x 66.9 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Thanks for Paying by Kind  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





End of Red  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Columbo  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Streatham Dog Fight**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
170 x 150 cm | 66.9 x 59 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Down Came from the Woods Today  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
210 x 170 cm | 82.6 x 66.9 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Polar Hulk**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
210 x 170 cm | 82.6 x 66.9 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**When I Was Younger There  
Was Magic Everywhere  
2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
210 x 170 cm | 82.6 x 66.9 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Regulated Candy  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
210 x 170 cm | 82.6 x 66.9 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Badly Shaded Human**  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Oil, acrylic, charcoal, pastel and spray on canvas  
210 x 170 cm | 82.6 x 66.9 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Poison and Payback**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
150 x 120 cm | 59 x 47.2 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Flatface Road Kill**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
100 x 85 cm | 39.3 x 33.5 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Green Berry Lines**  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
100 x 85 cm | 39.3 x 33.5 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Full Moon Dichotomy  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
100 x 85 cm | 39.3 x 33.5 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Giddy up Snowball  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
100 x 85 cm | 39.3 x 33.5 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





**Factor 80**  
**2021**

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
100 x 85 cm | 39.3 x 33.5 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





Monkey Lies  
2021

Signed and titled on the back  
Charcoal, oil, pastel, acrylic and spray on canvas  
100 x 85 cm | 39.3 x 33.5 in

PROVENANCE  
Artist's studio





# BIOGRAPHY



Born in 1982 in Tooting, South London, British artist George Morton-Clark studied animation for 3 years at London University and completed his Bachelor of Arts at the Surrey Institute of Art and Design. Once he completed his Bachelor of Arts, he left to pursue a career in art, but animation remained a strong influence in his craft. He currently lives and works in East London.

Morton-Clark utilises oil, acrylic, and charcoal on un-primed, usually large canvases to bring his characters to life. With a combination of bold images and strong colours, his paintings and sculptures are immersed in an abstract atmosphere of energy and liveliness. Drawing his inspiration from films, music, his travels and pop imagery, he combines abstract elements with figurative, working in expressionistic techniques. He is wary of complacency and constantly strives to move his work in a new direction, resulting in his art becoming a mixture of a variety of styles, each time challenging the way that we experience his art.

Morton-Clark's artworks draw on the nostalgic and universal connection that we all have to his cartoonish figures in a quest to connect to everyday life. Their large eyes stare at us from the canvas, in a striking and overemphasised fashion. While the characters evoke a collection of emotions and expressions from surprise to fear, we are engulfed in a state of curiosity, which the artist responds to with an ambiguous simplicity. His artwork is simply a gift to the viewer; a small window of relaxation and simple enjoyment that the viewer can use to imagine to their heart's content. Embodying both the charm of a painting that is finished and one that is still in progress, even the chaotic, exaggerated portions of his work are expressed with such a natural frankness that they are transformed into positive elements that inspire vitality and liveliness.

*"I find there is a very nostalgic connection to the characters I use in the paintings, and they are there as a vessel to show form and movement. They are used in an abstract way to convey an image I want to build. The characters are placed as a connection to the audience. Instead of telling someone how to listen to music or a song, they will make their own minds up and assimilate with the painting themselves."* – George Morton-Clark

Morton-Clark's work is part of major private and public collections across the US, Europe, The Middle East and the Far East. The artist has also collaborated with major brands including All Saints Clothing, DeLonghi, The Macmillan Cancer Trust and Penguin Books. In 2018, all of his works were sold out in a major show in Beirut concluding with 24 pieces going to prestigious collections across the world.



# SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2021	Solo show, Koo House Museum, GGallery, Seoul, South Korea Art Miami, Opera Gallery, Miami, United States Art Wynwood, Eternity Gallery, Palm Beach, United States	2012	60 years Auction, Bristol, United Kingdom Art Mosh, Munich, Germany
2020	Context Art Fair, Eternity Gallery, Miami, United States Palm Beach Art Fair, Eternity Gallery, Florida, United States Solo Show, Eternity Gallery, Paris, France Solo Show, Opera Gallery, London, United Kingdom Rankin x WaterAid Project, London, United Kingdom	2010	From L, Group Show Lille, France Geishan London v Brighton, Group Show, Brighton, United Kingdom
2019	Art Elysees, Opera Gallery, Paris, France Duo Show, Opera Gallery, Hong Kong, China Art Hamptons, Eternity Gallery, The Bridgehampton Museum, United States Choose Love, Help the refugees, Auction, Sommerset House, London, United Kingdom	2009	Mutate Britain, Group Show, West London, United Kingdom
2018	Art Basel, Miami, United States Urban Poetry, Group Show, Opera Gallery, Dubai Unsanctioned: Voices off the Wall, Group Show, Opera Gallery, Singapore		
2017	Knots Rugs, London, Chelsea, Nepalese hand made of a rug selected painting Design Week, Beirut, Lebanon		
2016	MARR x George Morton-Clark Clothing line with MARR London		
2013	International Music Summit, Ibiza, Spain The Multiple Sclerosis Society		



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