

BERNHEIM

TOM WARING

Death and Taxes

BERNHEIM, London

16 April - 22 May, 2026

Bernheim, London is delighted to present Tom Waring's first solo exhibition in the UK. This new body of work explores the interplay between historical reference, structural imagination, and the constructed space of painting. Known for his meticulous yet richly layered canvases, Waring weaves together art-historical motifs and monumental forms to challenge how viewers perceive and inhabit visual space.

Death and Taxes takes the distinctly human inevitabilities as a departure point, to interrogate how meaning emerges from the human condition when labour and creativity, owing to AI, are no longer exclusively human. Evoking the macabre grandeur and detail of Gothic cathedrals through imagined, labyrinthine spaces, Waring's work, while not a literal architectural depiction, echoes ribbed vaults and soaring arches. Within these environments, a surreal tension reflects a pursuit of the profound that remains just out of reach, where the act of searching itself becomes the closest encounter with meaning or honesty.

Working initially in greyscale to establish form and tonal depth, Waring then layers brightly coloured surfaces to juxtapose the soaring, intricately carved architecture with the flowing, circular forms of Roman fountains. The works inhabit the gap between the monumental promise of architecture, and the tangible experience available to the artist in each fleeting moment that light filters through the stone in delicate, skeletal patterns; evoking a haunting, low-grade sublime.

Gargoyles spew coloured liquid into receiving distorted figures, who in turn jut water upward. Gravity seems to vanish; a dynamic that resonates with the work of Giorgio de Chirico, Hieronymus Bosch, and Giovanni Battista Piranesi, whose shared fascination with architectural complexity, grotesque figuration, and the destabilisation of space informs Waring's densely constructed compositions.

Across his practice, Tom Waring constructs densely layered, visually arresting worlds where architecture, myth, and the grotesque collide, resulting in a contemporary painterly vision that is at once precise, disorienting, and vividly alive.

Born 1991, Reading, UK. Lives and works in Wales, UK. His recent solo shows include *All the Pomp of Yesterday*, Tara Downs, New York (2025); *A Robot Never Made Me Laugh* at Bernheim, Zürich (2023); *Ars Brevis* at Downs & Ross, New York (2022); and *Consistent Estimator* at Downs & Ross, New York (2022). His works are included as permanent collections in The Elizabeth Margulies Collection, and the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), Miami, USA.

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