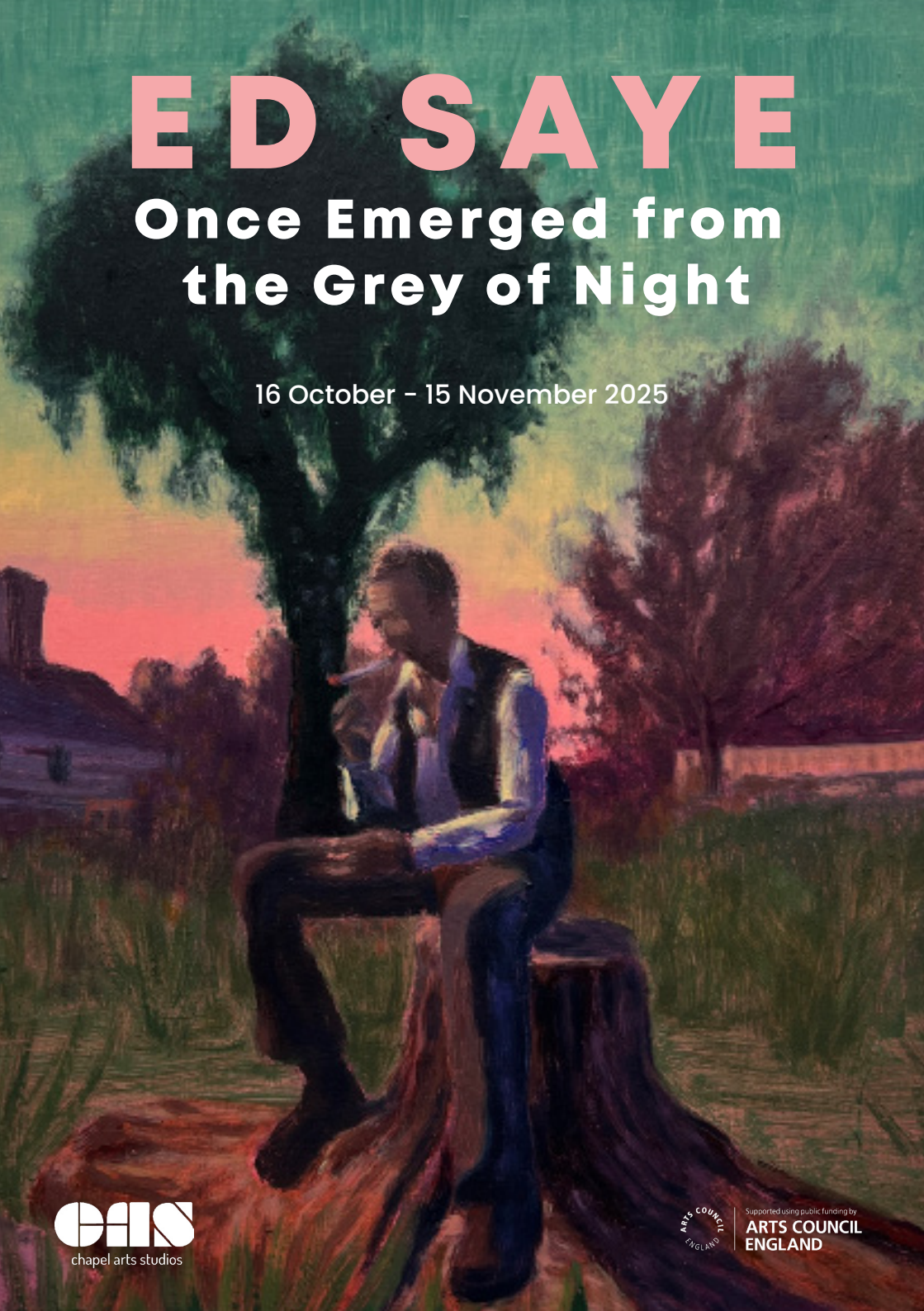




ED SAYE

Once Emerged from the Grey of Night

16 October – 15 November 2025

ARTIST STATEMENT

These paintings came about through a slightly awkward door: Remembrance. Not a theme that immediately felt a natural fit for my work, but then...The invitation from Chapel Arts Studios got me thinking, specifically about Stanley Spencer's murals at Sandham Memorial Chapel, just down the road.

His response to war was so defiantly un-war-like. Not battles, but floors being scrubbed, beds made, bread eaten. Intimate, bodily, repetitive. Profound in their dailiness. I wondered if I could follow that logic, painting the present, not as spectacle, but as the observance of the routine and ordinary.

So, this new body of work, made for the Dissenters' Chapel in Andover, carries echoes of Spencer but wanders somewhere else entirely. My paintings are full of middle-aged men like me, avatars sort of, playing golf, watering lawns, smoking, floating, lying down. They're sometimes pensive, sometimes radiant, sometimes both. There's not much happening, except maybe the low-key drama of just being. The figures move through surreal, almost psychedelic landscapes at dusk, rendered in saturated colours and acid greens, with the faint apocalyptic hum of too much light on a summer evening. It's as if a Grünewald Renaissance altarpiece got lost inside a retro video game.

There's meant to be lightness here, but also dread. The men in my paintings seem adrift, gently performing their leisure. Golf clubs become wands or weapons, depending on the angle. Lawns stretch out like strange stages. It's masculinity, maybe, but in a costume - performative, nostalgic, unsure. These worlds aren't utopias, but they're not exactly dystopias either. They're invented landscapes of feeling. As Fernando Pessoa put it, "I make landscapes out of what I feel," and that feels right. I'm painting fantasy in order to understand reality.

My process is hybrid: I use oil paint, yes, but also digital drawing and image-making tools in the initial stages. I grew up alongside the birth of computer games but also exposed to painting and art. I loved the latter more than the former. Now I watch my children playing computer games; these are the tools and images around me, and I want to see

what happens when old and new mediums merge to create a new language. The result, I hope, is a kind of digital-physical fiction. Something that's not quite real but is trying to feel its way toward truth.

At heart, I think I'm painting in defence of the everyday. And in defence of painting itself—a medium slow enough to hold conflicting things together: melancholy and joy, banality and wonder, digital noise and painterly touch.

Read Ed's full artist bio and an essay by artist and curator Dan Howard-Birt by visiting www.edsaye.studio/texts

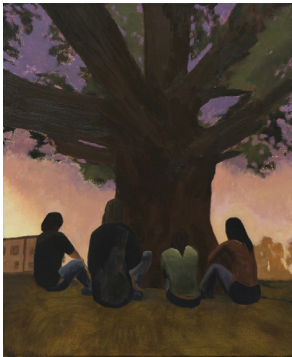
You can find the full body of work from Once Emerged from the Grey of Night online at chapelartsstudios.co.uk/ed-saye-gallery



ED SAYE

Ed studied at Central Saint Martins and the Slade School of Fine Art in London. He has exhibited around the UK and Europe and his work is held in private collections worldwide. He lives and works in Hampshire, UK.

www.edsaye.studio @ed_saye



Solitary Tree

Oil on canvas
60 x 50 cm
£1,261



Rusky-Dusky Neon Dust

Oil on canvas
150 x 120 cm
£6,175



La Joie De Vivre

Oil on wood panel
41.5 x 27.5 cm
£975



What Do You Do?

Oil on linen
40 x 30 cm
£975



July

Oil on panel
29.5 x 20 cm
£884



August

Oil on panel
21 x 15 cm
£793



Unheroic

Oil on canvas
150 x 120 cm
POA



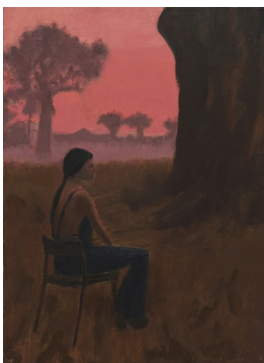
Flight Over Water

Oil on wood panel
18 x 13.5 cm
£520



The Smoker

Oil on canvas
41 x 30 cm
£975



Solitary Tree 2 (Crop to Girl)

Oil on canvas
40 x 30 cm
£975



Landscape Out of Feelings 1

Oil on canvas
130 x 94 cm
£2665



Multiplayer Game

Oil on gessoed panel
18 x 14 cm
£689



Dream Grass Reality Game

Oil on card on panel
40 x 30 cm
£975

To see the full body of work, please visit
chapelartsstudios.co.uk/ed-saye-gallery
or scan the QR code >>>



CHAPEL ARTS STUDIOS

Chapel Arts Studios (CAS) is a socially-engaged, contemporary visual arts organisation, which exists to support and develop artists of all ages, to excel as a centre for contemporary visual arts and to deliver socially engaged arts programmes. CAS is one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations (NPO), based in Andover, Hampshire. Charity No. 1185771

www.chapelartsstudios.co.uk @casartists



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