

I N M A N G A L L E R Y

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2013

Inman Gallery is pleased to present
the exhibition:

Darren Waterston: *Stabat Mater*

May 17 – June 22, 2013

Opening Reception:
Saturday May 17th
6 – 8 pm

Gallery hours:
Tues. – Sat., 11 – 6
and by appointment



Darren Waterston, *Dolorosa No. 3*, 2013
oil on wood panel; 24 x 30 inches

Inman Gallery is pleased to announce **Darren Waterston: *Stabat Mater***, an exhibition of new paintings by the New-York-based artist. The exhibition opens Friday, May 17 with a reception from 6 to 8 pm, and will be on view until June 22, 2013. *Stabat Mater* is Waterston's seventh solo exhibition with the gallery since 1998. Waterston's work will also be on view from June 19 – September 8, 2013 in *Playing with Process: Experimental Prints* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Darren Waterston's exhibition *Stabat Mater* comprises a new series of abstract paintings that envision transcendent psychological states achieved through physical distress. The thirteen oil on wood compositions depict ineffable thresholds between material and metaphysical realities. In each image volatile figurative accumulations meld into equally unstable atmospheric spaces marked by painterly cuts, flares, and clots. Waterston's series was inspired by the great musical settings of the *Stabat Mater*, a 13th century poem of divine suffering. His paintings evoke a similar sense of anguish and rapture, a glimpse of the sublime within the tormented body.

Waterston's decades-long interest in representing idealized states metamorphosing into natural forms, and the reverse, has led to a hybrid practice in which the artist merges figurative and abstract styles, and allegorical and phenomenological meaning. He reanimates seemingly anachronistic experiences—the medieval bestiary, the Victorian funeral parlor, Renaissance panel paintings—as contemporary sensory reflections on apocalypse, afterlife, and here, extreme human endurance. Waterston specifically derives the title for this exhibition from the medieval Catholic hymn *Stabat Mater Dolorosa* ("the sorrowful mother stood"), which expresses devotion for the suffering figure of Mary at the crucifixion. Centuries of Western artists have interpreted the prayer's universal themes of agony and ecstasy in masterful artworks, including paintings by Pietro Perugino to Francis Bacon, and musical works by Giovanni Pergolesi, Joseph Hayden, and the contemporary composer Nico Muhly.

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Waterston listened to several of the Stabat Mater compositions while developing this corpus of work, and his paintings share the lyrical, emotional, and immaterial qualities of music. He paints layers of abstract, seemingly infinite reaches with moments of radiant light, synesthetic expanses that convey moods of deep longing and release. Waterston grounds the drama of these spaces with depictions of transgressive matter—tumorous growths, erupting spurts, and pooling stains—that resemble bone, blood, and tears. His paint handling intensifies his motifs: viscous applications mark the corporeal, and aqueous glazes manifest the ethereal. Waterston's Stabat Mater paintings offer beautifully violent visions of boundless bodies and limitless pictorial space.



Darren Waterston, *Dolorosa No. 1*, 2013
oil on wood panel; 24 x 30 inches

Darren Waterston (born Fresno, CA, 1965) currently lives and works in New York, New York. Waterston earned his B.F.A. from Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, CA (1988). He has since exhibited his work in over 50 solo exhibitions, including the recent projects at Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA (2013); The Contemporary Museum & Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, HI (2011); Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA (2013); DC Moore Gallery, New York, New York (2012); and Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, WA (2011). Waterston's paintings are in the public collections of Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; the Berkeley Art Museum, University of

California, Berkeley, CA; and the Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, among others. Waterston is preparing for a major solo exhibition, entitled *Filthy Lucre*, at MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA. It will feature a selection of paintings and works on paper in addition to a new installation that will reinterpret James McNeill Whistler's famous Peacock Room as a resplendent ruin, a vision of crumbling excess.

Special Gallery Event: Saturday, May 18th, 1 pm

Please join us as **Darren Waterston** discusses the Stabat Mater as inspiration for his current body of work. Afterwards, we'll have sandwiches and drinks.

For more information, contact the gallery at 713.526.7800 or info@inmangallery.com