

JACK WARNE  
BLIND AT THE  
AGE OF FOUR  
SOLO SHOW  
7 SEPT - 5 OCT  
UNIT 6, 39 GRANSDEN  
AVENUE, LONDON  
E8 3QA

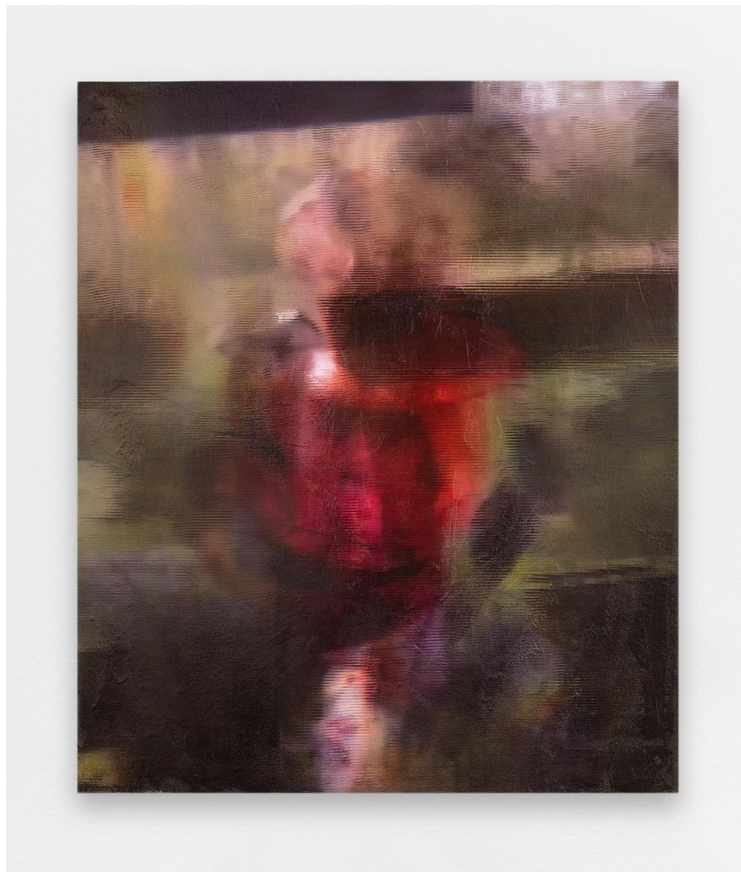
[Alt Text / ID: Press Release for Jack Warne's solo show  
'Blind at The Age of Four']

**PRESS RELEASE**  
***Blind at The Age of Four***  
**A solo show by Jack Warne**

Press Preview — **Thur 7 Sept — 16.30-18.30**  
Opening — **Thur 7 Sept — 18.30-22.00**  
Exhibition Until — **5 October Tue-Sat — 12.30-17.30**  
Address — **Unit 6, 39 Gransden Avenue, London E8 3QA**

*Announcing Jack Warne's (aka GAUNT [@gauntghentgaunt](#)) most ambitious UK solo show; an immersive, multi-sensory encounter with his paintings which incorporate adaptive AR technologies and sound derived from his debut album 'Blind at The Age of Four' (released 18th August 2023 on the artist's own platform, 3ON [@orieuen](#)).*

*An exhibition that seeks to disrupt the norms of how to perceive and interact with a visual arts show, incorporating co-created Audio Description, physical wayfinding features and AR experiences devised with blind and sighted collaborators.*



**Yily Streas at het Lkco, 2023**  
*Foam, curtain, tile adhesive, aluminium, Augmented Reality filter — 95 x 80 cm.*  
*Artwork by Jack Warne. Image courtesy of the Artist ©*



*Activate the Augmented Reality Artwork by scanning the QR Code.*

[Alt text / Image Description: An evergreen painting with hot red hues glows in the centre. The surface ripples as if seen through a murky lake. Indistinct forms, perhaps a siren, a small animal or a human? An image that's reflected below. Abstract yet familiar, nostalgic yet alien.]

Place a phone to a QR code, a filter is activated, hold the screen up to map the painting, the image is triggered into further life, more is revealed, the compressed surface concertinas outwards into a mutli-layered new reality, looking down at someone or something in red, obscured, tracking them through a moving railing, look again.]

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It is this glitchy uncomfort/comfort of recognition or lack of, the flit between the abstract and familiar that is omnipresent in both Jack Warne's music (as GAUNT) and art making, a duality that is the focus of his debut UK solo show which opens on 7th September in London Fields. "Filters are fundamental to our experience of perception and the world. Whether that is through our own eyes and ears or via a broken computer programme, these systems form our view, I am interested in the moments when these systems malfunction," explains Warne.

He is interested in the lens of childhood nostalgia (much of the imagery for the works are initially derived from analogue images of Warne's familial past, home videos, shot by his late father). He then adds an additional filter, one with the newer languages of technology to help further disrupt our neural pathways. "Tearing images apart and putting them back together, how far can you reduce the signal and still tell what it is?" As well as exploiting technology he hacks it, enjoying its faultlines, underlining moments of imperfection that happen with malfunctions. In playing with the interspatial things that are not supposed to be perceived, Warne's work makes us question the threshold of our own perception.

This exhibition follows the release on 18th August of GAUNT's debut album '[Blind at The Age of Four](#)' the title of which references the rare eye condition *Thiel-Behnke Corneal Dystrophy* that the artist has experienced since childhood "I'll wake up in the middle of the night, and if I open my eyes too quickly, I can rip the cells, they tear off, and I'll go blind" he explains of the hereditary dystrophy. This condition led to a young Warne spending weeks at a time in bed, in complete darkness, a theme that is explored further on **13th September at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)** as GAUNT will perform his debut live

show in complete darkness using the ICA's newly installed d&b Soundscape sound system - [book tickets here](#).

For each of the new artworks, Warne has specially devised Instagram filters to produce an additional moving — Augmented Reality iteration of the work, often with an audio score attached using moments from his debut album. Warne likes to bring his music into the context of experiencing his works in a gallery, “an additional signal to allow the participant to connect with the artwork in the more visceral and primal way that music often allows for. Even in the mundane our lives have soundtracks, rhythms constantly overlapping on the bus or as we walk, associations come to us.” In collaboration with [Diabolical](#), a series of Warne's artworks will replace advertising on billboards, visually and audibly bleeding into our public space as we traverse our every day. The work's AR element allows street walkers a more playful discovery and encounter with our shared urban landscapes. Advertising slogans will be replaced with Image Descriptions to enable people to experience the works via language.

Warne is particularly interested in *Affect Theory*, in trying to discern what type of stimulus we need to allow us to reach a deeper emotion, what triggers us to respond and in what way. A public programme of events to accompany the exhibition will explore these themes further with scientists, anthropologists and practitioners experimenting with AI.

The show's curators [D/ARTS](#) and [Collective Agency](#) (a group of blind and sighted artists, writers, academics and curators) are working in close collaboration with Warne to develop an inclusive gallery experience. Co-created Audio Description and innovative physical wayfinding features will be embedded into the gallery show, which, along with the Augmented Reality elements, will create an immersive environment where different ways of being with the artwork are encouraged.

### **Artist's Biography**

Following his scholarship at the Royal College of Art, and outside of his work as GAUNT, Jack Warne has worked with galleries and institutions internationally. He currently has a solo show at Spiaggia Libera in Paris and has exhibited in shows at Hannah Barry Gallery, YUELA Art Museum, Collective Ending and Castor Gallery. This is his most ambitious solo show.

**GAUNT's** debut album *Blind at The Age of Four* will be [released](#) on the 18 August via 3ON, a multidisciplinary arts platform founded by Warne. Initial singles '[Sweet](#)' / '[Favourite Memory](#)' and '[Rear View Spectate-or](#)' have seen support from BBC 6 Music - **Mary Anne Hobbs** ('**Near Future**' track), **Tom Ravenscroft** and **Deb Grant** – along with **Elizabeth Alker** (**BBC Radio 3 Unclassified**).



[Alt Text / ID: a pair of empty armoured sabaton shoes and greave shin guards, steel propeller plate.]

**For press / access enquiries please contact:**  
[press@dartsldn.com](mailto:press@dartsldn.com)

**For all Jack Warne or GAUNT management enquiries contact:**  
[jim@xxviiarts.com](mailto:jim@xxviiarts.com) / [grace@xxviiarts.com](mailto:grace@xxviiarts.com)

Art by Jack Warne @gauntghentgaunt & @orieuen. Solo Show curated by Olga Romanova @dartsldn + @CollectiveAgency\_ (@SashaGalitzine & @joeraudi). Produced by @xxviiarts @gracesheri

Made possible by funding from Arts Council England @aceagrams

Jack Warne / GAUNT would like to thank everyone for making this entire project possible: @stknapps @enyang\_ha @urbiks\_\_music @icalondon @dollop\_uk @buildhollywood @dicefm @loss\_\_gain @johnbestest @soundintermedia @dbaudiotechnik\_gmbh @icalondon @joshuascarratt @xxviiarts @gracesheri @catalogue\_crepes @CollectiveAgency\_ @sashagalitzine @joeraudi @artisticspaces @in\_col\_studio @lucas\_dupuy @bronze.ai @aceagrams @republicofmusic @orieuen @spiaggialibera.paris Dog Day Press and @henry.boon and the honourable patron @jon\_sharple

