

JONATHAN SILVERMAN

AT HAND AND FAR AWAY

Serena Morton

presents

JONATHAN SILVERMAN

AT HAND AND FAR AWAY

6 - 28 MARCH 2014

Serena Morton

385 Ladbroke Grove London W10 5AA

www.serenamorton.com

Exhibition opening times Monday - Friday 10-2pm

All other times by appointment please

Serena Morton gallery is pleased to present *At Hand and Far Away*, an exhibition of new work by London based painter Jonathan Silverman.

Originating in the study of Hindu Temples whilst artist in residence at the International Institute of Fine Art, Modinagar, India in 2012, Silverman's new paintings focus on the power of symbolic architectures and their exploration through the process of painting.

Beginning in New Delhi, Silverman travelled to Himachal Pradesh in the north, through Madhya Pradesh to Orchha and Khajuraho, continuing to Varanasi in eastern Uttar Pradesh, all the while immersing himself in drawing and painting. Of the experiences that underlie the exhibition he has said:

"With its singing sufis in the square in front of the tomb, the mausoleum of the sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin (Nizamuddin Dargah) in New Delhi left a lasting impression. The atmosphere and visual impact of this place was profound, where believers "possessed" by evil spirits come in order to exorcise themselves, their shouting and screaming heard whilst sitting in the square. The sandstone temples of Khajuraho, had a quieter, though no less visceral, effect in my identification with the temples as a potential subject. Covered in a skin of carved bodies and with the colour of the sandstone shifting throughout the day, I began to perceive the architecture as human, organic structures and this notion of temples as living organisms, animated by those who contemplate them, kept me immersed for hours drawing in front of them.

Returning to London, Silverman's observational drawings functioned as raw material for the paintings now seen in *At Hand and Far Away*.

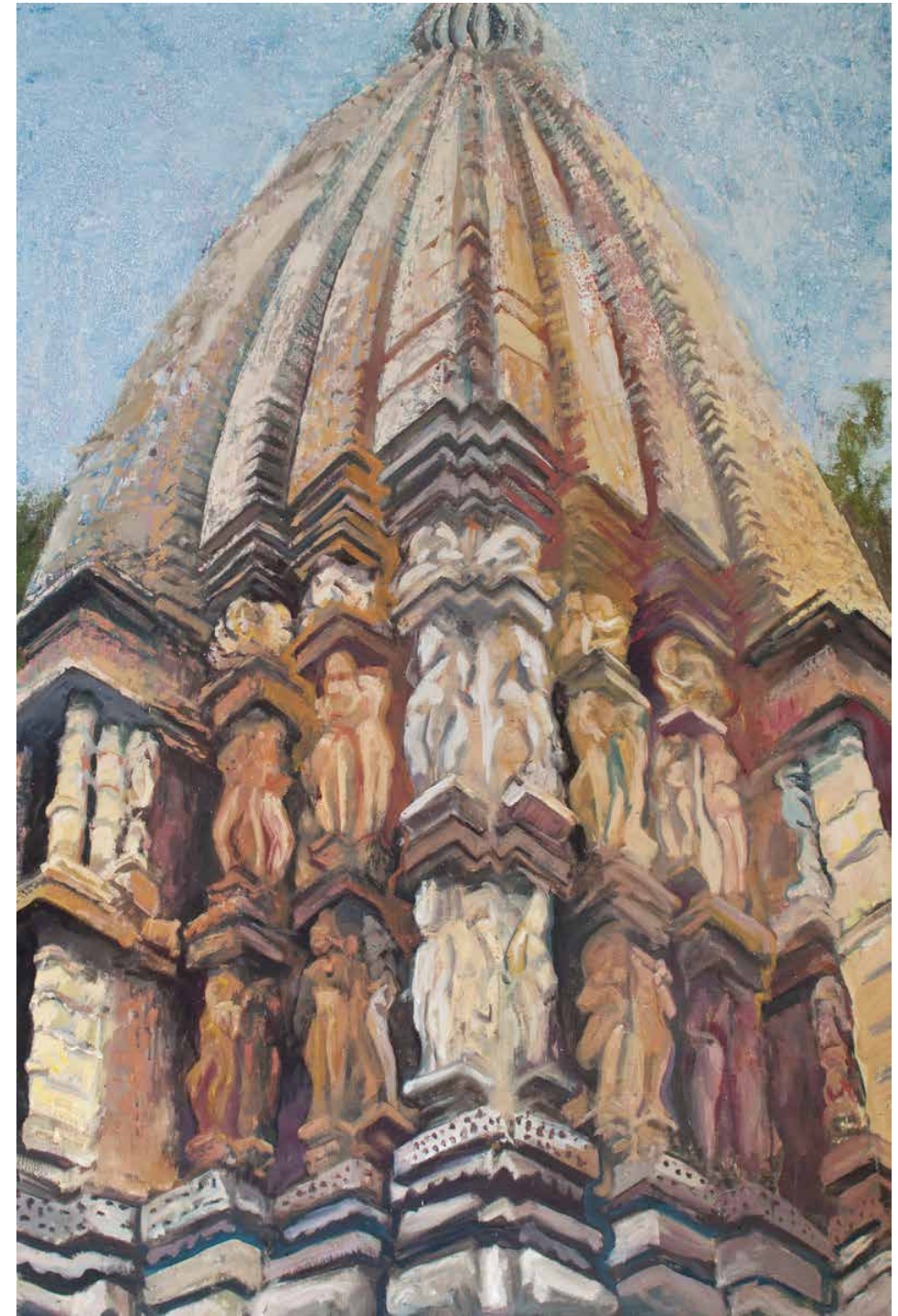
"For me painting is a conversation between abstract sensation and figurative representation, and in revisiting the sites and experiences of these temples through the process of painting in the studio, I enter into a process of building and re-building symbolic images in my own and other's imagination. The temples seem to me to be places of 'workings out'...they are sites of exorcism and inspiration, of belonging and despair, of solace and affirmation, and all this achieved through engagement in a metaphysical process symbolized and encouraged through a series of visual and architectural prompts. In this architecture I saw a human endeavour to make sense, to deify, to rejoice, to understand. At times I hope painting can allow for a similar project"

"Though my own experience of these temples is secular and subjective, I would like to think that their metaphysical message - conveyed through the beauty of their construction and decoration - is a simple and direct one that I can try to relate to through my practice as a painter. This is best captured in an inscription I saw written in the Lakshmi Narayan temple in New Delhi, a beautiful and simple description of the divine:

It is without and within all beings and constitutes both animate and inanimate creation. By reason of its subtlety it is incomprehensible; it is both at hand and far away.

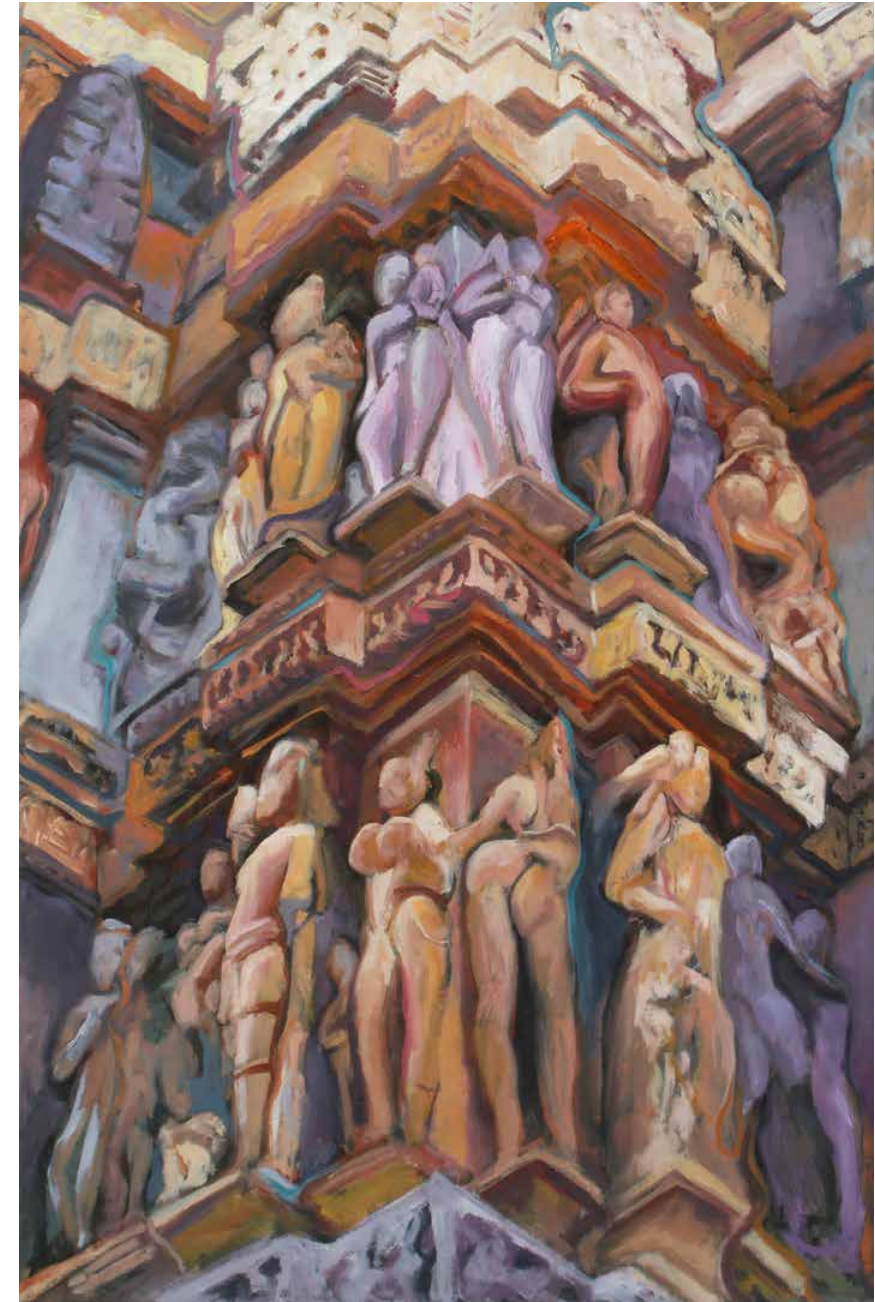
Jain Temple

2013 oil on canvas 130 x 90 cm



Sansdstone Figures

2013-2014 oil on canvas 91 x 60 cm



Devi Jagadambi

2013 oil on canvas 90 x 130 cm



Vishvanatha

2013-2014 oil on canvas 91 x 60 cm

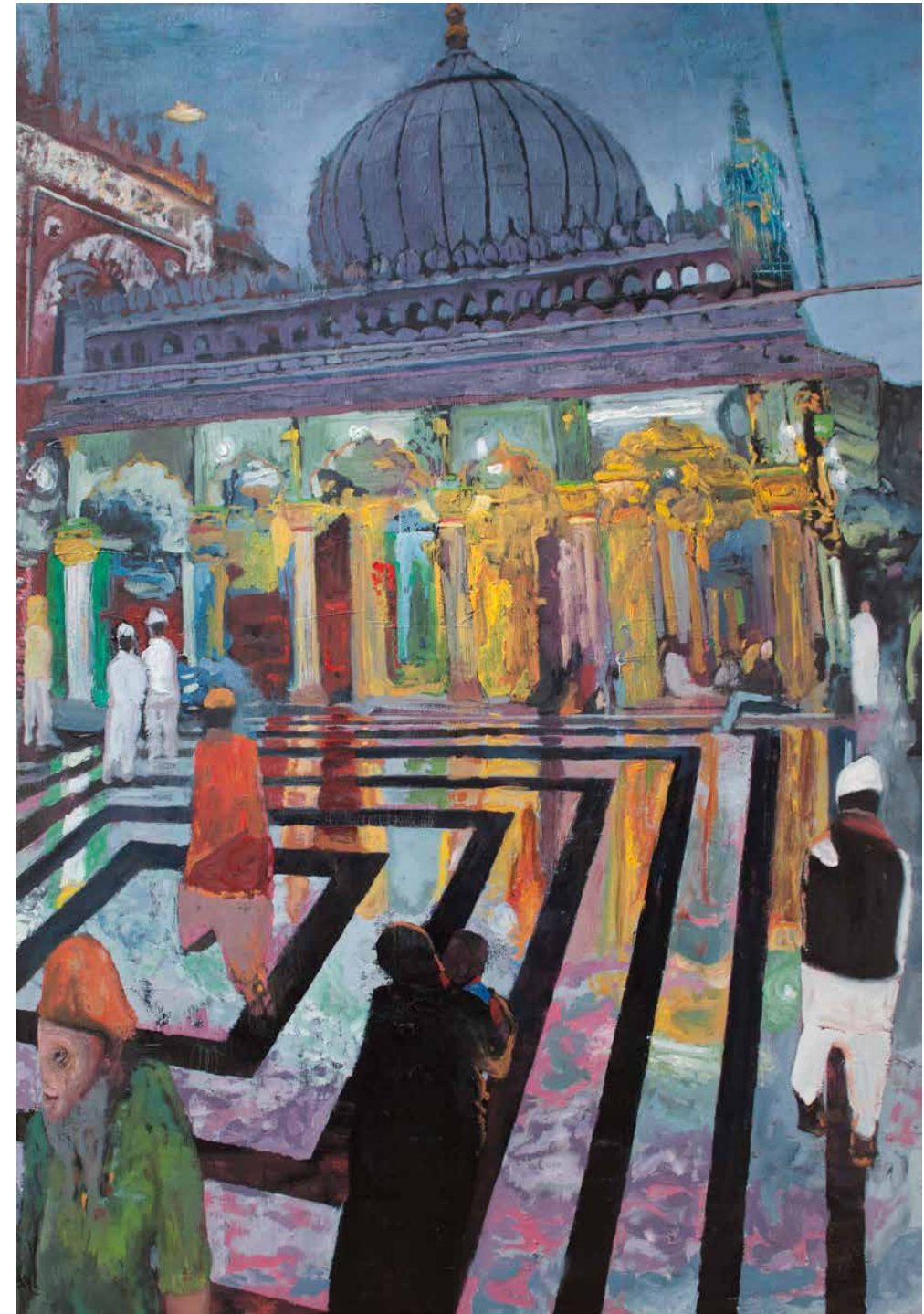


Himalayan Nandi

2013-2014 oil on canvas 91 x 60 cm

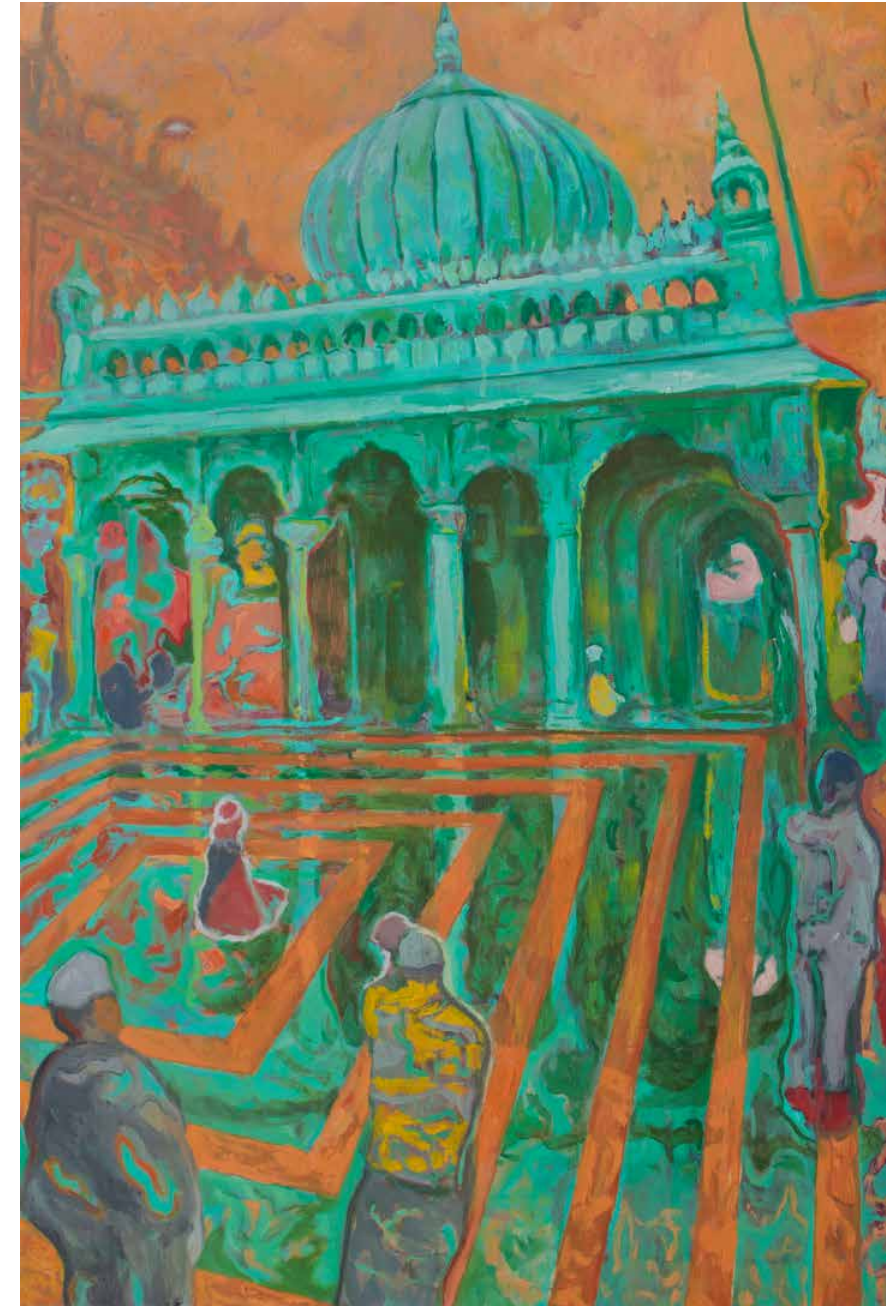


Nizamudin Tomb
2013 oil on canvas 130 x 90 cm



Friday Dargah

2013-2014 oil on canvas 91 x 60 cm



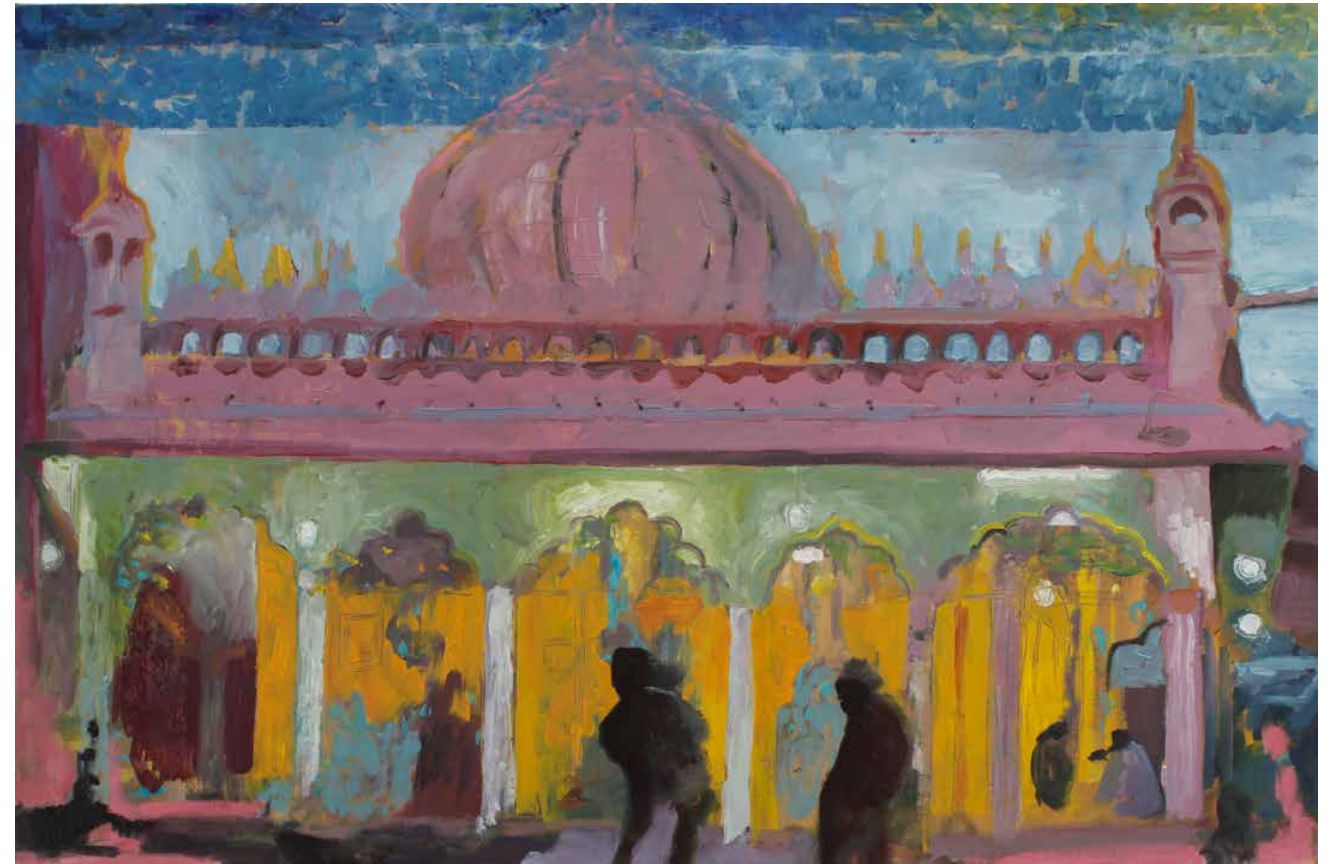
Ghat Of Changes

2013-2014 oil on canvas 90 x 130 cm



Pink Dargah

2013 oil on canvas 60 x 91 cm



Serena Morton

385 Ladbroke Grove London W10 5AA
www.serenamorton.com

Exhibition opening times Monday - Friday 10-2pm
All other times by appointment please

Serena Morton

385 Ladbrooke Grove London W10 5AA

www.serenamorton.com