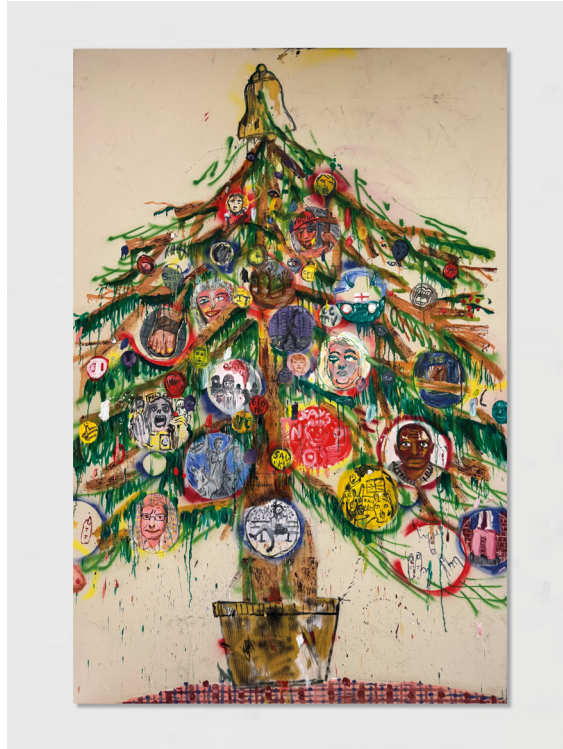


Dale Lewis: *Lost Illusions*

...

5 June – 14 August 2026

Opening reception | Thursday 4 June, 6–8pm



Edel Assanti is pleased to present *Lost Illusions*, an exhibition of new paintings by Dale Lewis, the artist's fourth with the gallery and his first solo show in London in five years. Working at scale in a mixture of acrylic, oil and spray paint, Lewis' paintings continue a line of enquiry into the social fabric of contemporary life underpinned by the themes that have always animated his work: class, national identity, sex, labour, mental health, nature and technology.

Whilst Lewis' oeuvre to date has been defined by the artist's sardonic wit and a specifically British sense of bleak humour, the works in this exhibition are sincere in their candidness. Their subjects – his own deceased grandfather, a friend of his family, an ex-boyfriend's father, Lewis himself – are delicately rendered, implicating the artist in honest depictions of everyday life.

Placing images within images, Lewis uses compositional techniques like posters stuck to a bedroom wall or a custom-printed fleece blanket to make dizzying leaps of association, building up dense references to

current events and the artist's lived experiences. Leaving surfaces intentionally bare in places rather than overworked, Lewis moves deftly between impasto layers of paint and raw, unprimed canvas; elsewhere found fabric is deployed as a spray-paint stencil, or carved linoleum is used as a stamp. Saccharine pinks, viridian green and cool titanium white recur, drawing formal connections between works, whilst other paintings take the patternings of ladybirds, patchwork quilts and advent calendars as points of departure.

At the exhibition's center is *The Bell* (2025), a large-scale painting of a Christmas tree with baubles and decorations hanging from its dripping branches. Vertiginous in its composition, the work depicts a surreal mixture of scenes and figures, both real and imagined, seen by the artist as he drove through his hometown in Essex in 2025, at the height of nationalist protest action against hotels used as asylums for migrants in the UK. The work introduces Lewis' use of compositions-within-compositions as a pictorial device, allowing simultaneous perspectives and nonlinear narratives

to link and unlink across the picture plane. Like rabbit holes, each bauble is a perfectly formed capsule of hysterical anger, malaise or disaffection; TOWIE icon Gemma Collins rubs shoulders with a masked protestor holding a lit flare, whilst a man wearing a red cap that says Make Epping Great Again wields a large wooden cross like a stake. Taken together, an incisive portrait of modern Britain emerges, unified by Lewis' totemic tree and its meticulously stamped branches.

Through Lewis' depictions of the private made public, the mundanity of everyday desperation - and the ways we maneuver around it - comes into focus. It is Lewis' implication in these works that enlivens them, his admissions of guilt which become our own. Speaking of one portrait, *Horizon* (2025), Lewis states that the work "can also be seen as an abstract landscape, or horizon, to which collectively - as groups or individuals, dead or alive, as organic matter - we're all part of the layering of time."

ABOUT DALE LEWIS

Dale Lewis (b. 1980) completed a BA in Fine Art at London Guildhall in 2002, an MFA at Brighton in 2006 and graduated from the Turps Studio Programme in 2015. Recent solo exhibitions include *Nights and Weekends*, KDR305, Miami, FL, USA (2025); *The Great Day*, Art Matters, Hangzhou, China (2024); *Sweet and Sour*, Choi&Choi Gallery, Seoul, South Korea (2023); *No Place Like Home*, Block 336, London, UK (2021); and *The Great Day*, Edel Assanti, London, UK (2020). Recent group exhibitions include John Moores Painting Prize, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK (2025); *Happy & Glorious: Coronation Commissions from the Government Art Collection*, The National Archives, London, UK (2025); *The Day I Saw You*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Querétaro MACQ, Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (2023) and *Friends and Friends of Friends*, Schlossmuseum, Linz, Austria (2020).

Lewis was the recipient of the 2016 Jerwood Painting Fellowship. His work is in international collections including The Arsenal, Montreal, Canada; By Art Matters, Hangzhou, China; David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK; Fundacion AMMA, Mexico; Government Art Collection, London, UK; Hort Foundation, New York, USA and Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK. Dale Lewis lives and works in London.

ABOUT EDEL ASSANTI

Edel Assanti was founded in 2010 by Jeremy Epstein and Charlie Fellowes. Having been located in London's Fitzrovia since 2014, in 2022 we opened our 4,000 square foot gallery in a renovated Grade II listed building on Little Titchfield Street.

Edel Assanti works with international artists whose practices engage with the complex realities of the moment in which they live. The gallery stages 4-5 ambitious, narrative driven exhibitions per year, tending towards interdisciplinary, research-led work. Biannual, expansive group exhibitions provide a platform to bring together non-represented artists in explorations of emerging themes of artistic interest.

Our premises play host to a dynamic events programme in parallel to gallery exhibitions, encompassing performance, talks and live music. The gallery's digital presence includes a series of short films and artist interviews published to accompany exhibitions. In 2021 Edel Assanti founded London Gallery Weekend (LGW), an annual celebration of London's diverse gallery community bringing together 130 contemporary commercial galleries. Now in its fifth year, Edel Assanti remains at LGW's helm. Chief amongst LGW's initiatives is a wide-ranging partnership with Art Fund, enhancing the relationship between London's galleries and regional museums across the UK.

We are proud to support several public arts institutions each year, and are currently members of Modern Art Oxford's Director's Circle, Gold Patrons of the Royal Academy of Arts and Patrons of Camden Art Centre.

CONTACT US

For further press information and high-res images, please contact: athena@edelassanti.com

IMAGE

Dale Lewis, *The Bell*, 2025. Oil on canvas, 200 x 300 cm, 78.7 x 118.1 in. © Dale Lewis. Courtesy the artist and Edel Assanti