

# Stanley Street gallery

Amy Dynan 'Water'

**Opening night Speech by Amy Dynan: 6-8PM, Wednesday 3 July 2019**

*"I've always felt I've understood much more than I have been able to adequately communicate. When someone asks me my opinion or how I feel about something, often I freeze. It is not fear of not having a response nor of what the other might think of me. Rather, it is a fear of how on earth I am going to condense all the deeply felt concepts up in my mind into a clear, linear sentence. With age I've come to understand that for me it is time I need. I need time to take in the world at my own pace, with all my sensibilities, to question it and then respond. Drawing is a process that allows for this time and is a language to better translate the life inside of me. Drawing is framework to which I can hang bits of the world I don't understand. It is a process I can continually break down, break open and rebuild into something that better holds all I have yet to share.*

*By 'share' I don't just mean my story or agenda, as it is not my wish to impose my agenda on you in this moment. Rather, I wish to let the framework of beauty be an entry point into your own questioning, to start a conversation and thus a connection. In this sense, art can be a place we meet and feel less alone in our humanity.*

*To value beauty in such precarious times is not to be ignorant of the collective pain and trauma in our world right now. However, we are not at risk of denying the darkness, rather we are at risk of being consumed by it. Therefore, I say we need beauty now more than ever - to be moved by the small exquisite moments that bring us closer to accept what we cannot make sense of, a tether to all that does exceed us.*

*Over the past 6 months I've been working on this series, inspired by the epic scenes I encountered when travelling in France, Iceland and Norway. What I have tried to capture is what I felt when looking upon these scenes - fully alive. Gazing at the landscapes in all their grandeur and power, I felt like a plaything at the mercy of the forces. I became intoxicated by the movement of water, seeing it as a symbol for who and what we are.*

*For me, drawing is an emptying of oneself onto the page, and this work goes in part to represent that feeling. Black and white works as a metaphor for the opposing forces in nature and in ourselves, and thus the images hover between land and sky; the material and ethereal. Soft clouds above churning waves; the stillness of a mountain against a brewing sky; sheets of water falling from light and thundering to their collision with the bottom of the void. The cycle of water lends itself as a symbol through which I can attempt to reveal the full spectrum of this wild and bewildering life.*

*To be alive is a magnificent, messy, sensory overload and how lucky we are to feel it fully. It is in this spirit that I present these works to you with heartfelt thanks."*

Amy