Press Release

Wednesday 28th October 2026



"Jason Martin is the most important artist ever to be born in Jersey in the history of art"

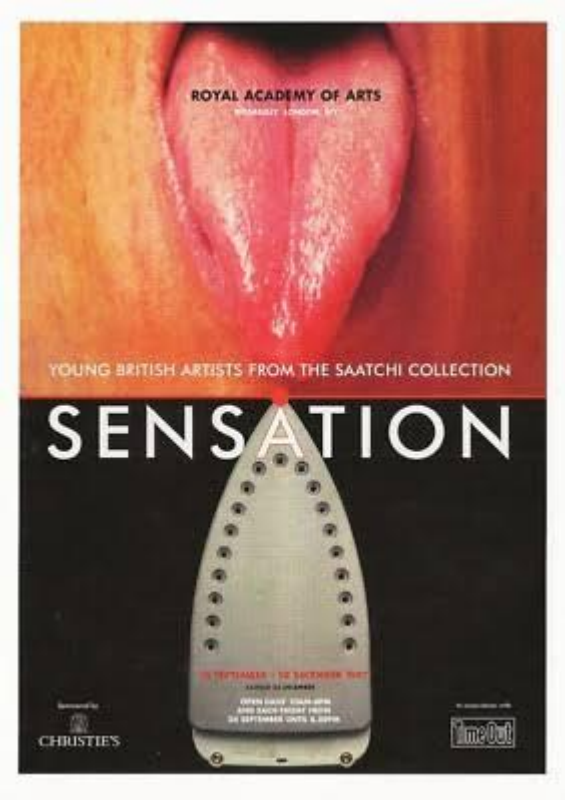
Chris Clifford Gallery Director, Private & Public Gallery

The internationally acclaimed painter Jason Martin is returning to Jersey next month for his first exhibition of large scale museum works, which has been made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of Rathbones. Rathbones commitment to providing grass roots community support has also ensured that local art students will be invited to attend a talk given by the artist which will focus on how to navigate a pathway to a successful career as an artist. By providing this unique level of access to such a hugely successful artist it is hoped that the next generation will be inspired to follow their dreams and bring those talents to their island home.

Jason Martin was born in Jersey in 1970, studied art under the careful guidance of the late Robert Tilling MBE at Victoria College, before graduating from Goldsmiths College in London in 1993 with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art before going on to be recognised as part of the *Young British Artist* (YBA) generation promoted initially by Charles Saatchi in the seminal exhibition *Sensation* (Royal Academy of Arts London 1997) which also launched the careers of other world famous artists such as Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin, Rachael Whiteread, Jenny Saville, Chris Ofili and Ron Mueck.

If publicly listed auction records by the leading houses such as Sotheby's, Christies, Phillips and Bonhams are to be used a democratic benchmark for commercial success, whilst acting as a measure of the depth of an artist's cultural worth then the contemporary painter Jason Martin (£114,300) outstrips every other local artist including Philip John Ouless (£57,650), Edmund Blampied (£25,000), John St. Helier Lander (£20,000), Charles Henry Poingdestre (£5,900) and John Le Capelain (£3,500).

Since the late 1990's Jason Martin has achieved global recognition for his unique paintings with over 30 major museum shows (including a solo exhibition at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum in Venice) supported by representation from the world's largest and most influential commercial galleries in Europe, America and Asia such as Lisson Gallery, Thaddaeus Ropac, Pearl Lam and LA Louvre.





And whilst it is important to also point out that two other artists, Sir John Everett Millais (founder of the Pre-Raphaelite movement) and the French surrealist photographer Claude Cahun, both have auction records that exceed that of Jason Martin (£2,301,875 and £187,500 respectively) neither of them was born in Jersey and both only spent a few years living in the island.

So what is it that makes Jason Martin not just the stand out artist of his generation but the most successful artist in Jersey's history?

Gallery Director Chris Clifford explains "*Having known Jason Martin from a young age it was clear that his desire to paint, draw and sculpt was central to his identity. He worked extremely hard in art classes at school and was subsequently able to secure a place at the hugely prestigious Goldsmith's College in London at a time when the Art Department was seen as one of the most innovative and experimental studio environments anywhere in the world. Upon graduating his work was immediately collected by Charles Saatchi and gallery contracts with top tier international dealers soon followed.*

Since 1997 Jason Martin has exhibited in London, New York, Paris, Madrid, Rome, Tokyo and Hong Kong and has been able to position his paintings in many of the most important private collections on earth. The subsequent interest in his work from the late 1990's led to acquisitions by the world's leading corporate collections of modern and contemporary art and by the mid-2000's the artist had secured his name within the cannon of Western art as leading Museum Directors and Curators (the academic side of the art world) acquired paintings for their permanent collections leading to the publication of numerous books and catalogues which have cemented the artists reputation as one of Britain's leading and influential mid-career artists".

So what is it about Jason Martin's work that makes it so collectible?

Chris Clifford explains "*Jason Martin occupies a distinctive position in contemporary abstract painting, at the intersection of Minimalism, Abstract Expressionism and the material experimentation of postwar European art. The laying down of a single brush mark over the surface, which became his signature from the late 1990's, where described by critics as 'the most reductive statements in painting',, and cemented his place in art history.*

His significance also lies in a deceptively simple proposition: a painting can simultaneously function as an image, a physical object and a record of the artist's bodily movement and Martin belongs to a generation that inherited the achievements of twentieth-century abstraction but faced a fundamental question: What could abstract painting still contribute after Jackson Pollock, Lucio Fontana, Robert Ryman and the Minimalists had so comprehensively challenged its conventions?

The answer has been to make the physical substance of painting itself the subject rather than treating paint as a means of representing something else as he treats it as a sculptural material capable of generating light, rhythm, movement and spatial experience".

The title of the exhibition *Minimal Maximal* therefore provides a key into the artists current studio practice and is a showcase for 12 paintings ranging from the large tondo *Brasileira*, 2025, painted in oil on aluminium, to pure pigment works such as *Koh Lipe* painted in 2026, to smaller works on paper such as Horreur Vacui I, 2026, painted in gouache & watercolour on paper.



Jason Martin, Brasileira, 2025, Oil on Aluminium, 190cm in diameter



Jason Martin, Koh Lipe, 2026, Mixed media on aluminium, 102cm x 82cm



Jason Martin, Horreur Vacui I, 2026, Gouache & Watercolour, 58cm x 38cm

To stage an exhibition of this stature attracts considerable expense and so the gallery is extremely greatful for the kind generosity of Rathbones who have made it possible.

Jonathan Giles, Managing Director for Rathbones, says, "*We believe perspective matters. In investment management, as in art. seemingly opposing forces can coexist: risk and opportunity, conviction and restraint, preservation and growth. It is often in finding the right balance between them that lasting value is created and Jason Martin's visit to Jersey is itself a meeting of opposites: departure and return, familiarity and discovery, memory and new perspective.*

Rathbones is proud to support Jersey's cultural life and to celebrate Jason's return home. We sat together in St Martin, where I live, and where Jason was born. Clear skies looking north and east, the sea and the land; an inspirational outlook. His work reminds us that, in art as in investment, the most compelling possibilities are often found not at the extremes, but in the balance between them".

Notes to Editors

Minimal Maximal opens to the public on Friday 6th November for a preview evening and drinks reception

The exhibition is open weekdays between 12-6pm and Saturday's from 11am-2pm

The exhibition runs until 21st November

Jason Martin is available for interview in advance of the exhibition by emailing jason@jasonmartinstudios.com

Jonathan Giles is also available for interview by emailing jonathan.giles@rathbones.com

The full exhibition catalogue with introductory essay is available online at https://privateandpublic.com/project/minimal-maximal/

For further information please contact gallery director Chris Clifford on +44(0)7797 714186 or at chris@privateandpublic.com

Ends