

# FURSE.

ART  
MAGAZINE





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GRAHAM LISTER



# Graham Lister

*"My work is built around investigations of surfaces, materials and barriers that can be found within our everyday, physical lives. My painting process begins with making representational paintings of what I see around me; things like building site materials, fences, hoardings and brickwork. Using these paintings, I then look to develop new iterations of the subjects, but this time, I work to engage in abstracting or simplification processes. Eventually, with a work like Chain Link Fence, I find that I focus in on a repetitive mark-making process, which gets across the ideas of sameness and of 'barrier' materiality, but which also pushes me to foreground the imperfect nature of my personal painting style. The finished work therefore becomes quite interestingly tied to ideas about how far a gesture or mark might be pushed and when it stops being legible."*

-Graham Lister

## **Name**

Graham Lister

## **Age**

35

## **What is your current location?**

Glasgow, Scotland

## **Where are you from?**

I'm from Glasgow and have actually just returned to live and work in the city after a few years living in Manchester.

## **What is your current occupation?**

I'm a visual artist, predominantly a painter and am also lecturer at both the Glasgow School of Art and at the University of Huddersfield.

## **Do you have any training or formal education in the field of art you work in, or are you self taught?**

I have been fortunate enough to have had some amazing opportunities to gain formal qualifications in art. I have MA in Art

History, an MFA from Gray's School of Art and completed a practice-based PhD at the Glasgow School of Art in 2016. I'm really pleased to have studied in different places and to have worked with many exciting individuals too.

## **What people, books, films, (etc...) inspire you the most?**

As with many people connected to the arts, there are loads of sources / stories / things that inspire me. However, I guess I could say that I am always inspired when something really allows me to engage with it and almost be part of it as a reader, viewer or as someone listening to it. In terms of books, I always go back to the writing of Paul Auster and find myself being drawn to think about his characters in new ways every time I read.

## **What materials do you like to work with?**

I am a painter, and so like nothing more than pushing or pulling paint around on a surface. I work with oil and acrylic, on canvas, board or paper, depending on the project.

## **What pieces, projects, or collaborations are you currently working on?**

I have just finished a pop-up show in connected to East Street Arts, I am part of a group exhibition of painting-as-research which has been curated by Material Conjectures at Art Lacuna in London and I have an upcoming show at The Bowery in Leeds in early(ish) 2018.



**Is there any music you like to listen to while working?**

This is something that varies a bit for me. I might have something by Godspeed You! Black Emperor on in the background, or maybe something by Low, and this kind of works well for me. But, if ever I feel that I am getting too concerned about the appearance of the work, I stick on something by the Presidents of the United States of America or some Blink 182 and sing (badly) to stop me thinking too much!

**Where do you like to work?**

I have a small studio in the Briggait (which was the old fish market and has been renovated to become home to a number of artist studios) in Glasgow and this is where I work best.

**What is one of your earliest memories of making art?**

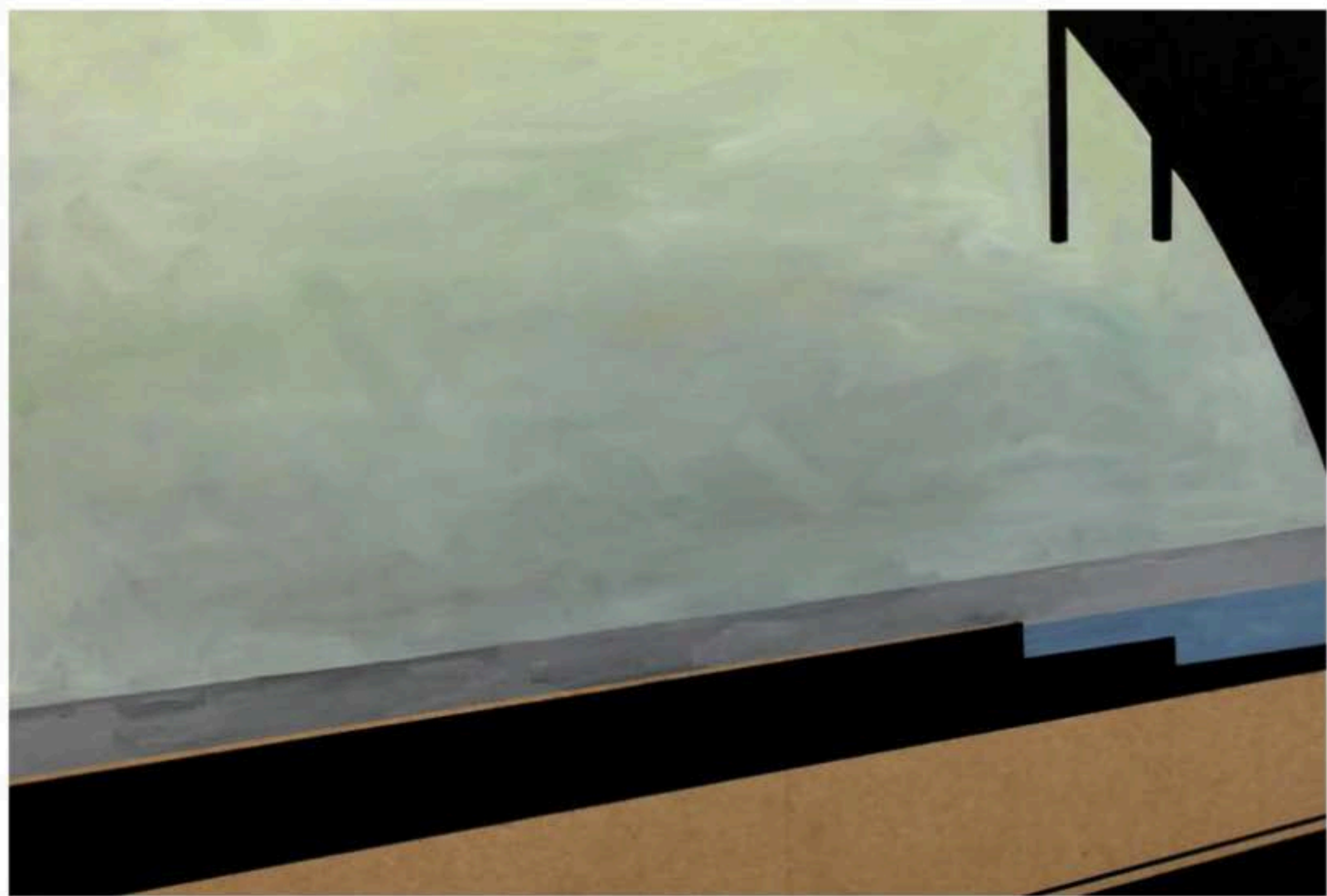
I remember being a really wee boy and being at playgroup /

nursery and the poster paints that we used having a really distinctive smell that I just loved. At that time, I also vividly remember that the painting of robots was the very most important thing for me in the whole world!.

**What do you hope to accomplish with your work?**

I'm particularly interested in the materiality of the everyday environment. I look to investigate surfaces, textures and planes through painting processes. From representational painted works, I look to gradually abstract and simplify weaves and barrier materials to eventually create repetitive (but imperfect) patterns. I like to try and think about the world through the lens of painting, and often ask myself 'what would this be like to paint' or 'how could I simplify this using paint'? I reckon I am always trying to find out something new using painting.

# Previous Work



# Where To Find Them

**Websites:**  
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