

Gowlett Peaks

# Alex Clarke

# HOPE

Friday 28 March  
to Sunday 4 May

Friday to Sunday 12-6pm  
For access inquire at the bar  
[www.gowlettpeaks.com](http://www.gowlettpeaks.com)  
[info@gowlettpeaks.co.uk](mailto:info@gowlettpeaks.co.uk)  
[@GowlettPeaks](https://twitter.com/GowlettPeaks)

The Gowlett Arms  
62 Gowlett Road  
London, SE15 4HY  
[www.thegowlett.com](http://www.thegowlett.com)

Gowlett Peaks is delighted to present the first exhibition of our new programme. HOPE is a show of new work by Alex Clarke.

Hope, a feeling of expectation and desire. To hope is to intend, if possible, to do something.

Hope can be a light feeling: if someone or something is hopeful they are optimistic, future-focused; but hope also carries weight. With hope there is the possibility of failure, of unrealised hopes.

Painting as a medium and as a discipline is often a space for looking backwards, for referring to histories. It is easy to get bogged down in references. Having a practice that is hopeful is a way of looking forwards.

To hope acknowledges the future. It involves an element of longing. Hope places Alex Clarke's paintings in a network of relationships with other things, places, emotions. Hope inserts these works into a system of time and place.

But hope, like the future, is not a fixed position. It is not something that you move steadily towards, that you reach or obtain. To hope is a way of not settling, of remaining active, of striving for something that may be impossible.

Hope can reside in overwhelming doubt. Hope can be reassuring. It can be an anchor. Hope is not a disparaging, casual mode. Hope feels honest; to hope is to care.

Gowlett Peaks is a programme of exhibitions and events above the Gowlett Arms curated by Elinor Morgan.

Clarke (b.1988, Nottingham) lives and works in London and will graduate from the Royal Academy Schools in June 2014.