

OPENING SHOT



THE SEEKER

Graham Little's surreal paintings show his ongoing quest for beauty

As a child, Graham Little would collect twigs, horse chestnuts and berries while walking with his parents in the Scottish countryside. He liked to carry them home, then arrange his ad-hoc treasures into still-life “other worlds” on his bedroom table, alongside vegetables stolen from the kitchen. “My mum was particular with food because she grew up in the postwar generation,” the artist recalls, “but I found it really exciting.” This bedroom worldbuilding has inspired his latest exhibition at London’s Alison Jacques gallery. It features 10 new paintings

in which Little conjures surreal scenes of marble statues gazing over wide and foggy fjords, and faces clustered together in a lace-strewn mirror. Each started as a meticulously handmade diorama in his studio, using cut-paper elements and vintage photographs. “With each painting, I’m trying to work out how I understand beauty,” he says. “I still don’t know how to put it into words, but that’s the lovely thing about art.” **JUDE JONES**
Graham Little at Alison Jacques, London W1, runs from 9 October to 14 November

Above: *Untitled (Panorama)*, 2025, by Graham Little