

COLD PARADISE

ANCESTOR HOUSES

September 2025

Reception: September 4th, from 7 PM

"But it is when the cloud is low on Beinn Alligin, and the curtains of mist drift across to obscure the Loch below, that the fragile shell of the present collapses, and we are left in a timelessness of moss and moisture." -*Walking into the Past: Historical Walks in Torridon*, Murdoch MacDonald, 2016



Hugo Winder-Lind, *Until Birds Once Again Conquer the Earth*, 2025. Courtesy the Artist.

Hugo Winder-Lind's figures often appear as apparitions, or ancient righteous heroes waging a battle between humans and animals, good and evil, light and darkness. The animals he depicts, primarily sheep and horses, represent a certain wildness — a landscape contained within the animal, and an animal within the landscape. His works illustrate worlds of animistic wonder, as well as familiar and collective fantasies. They convey a sense of place, both real and imaginary, illustrating how pattern recognition can create meaning, and how meaning can make memories.

The artist came here, to the Highlands, to build small chambers in the landscape; he referred to these constructions as "ancestor houses." After three days of solitude, Winder-Lind unconsciously began projecting these ancestors onto the landscape. He wanted to acknowledge this unseen world, to contain and protect it. The houses he created in turn fall within a space between shelter, shrine, and sculpture. They often include architectural features and finishes, yet hold the powerful presence of an artifact. These vessels represent not just a tacit knowledge of the thresholds between the natural world and the built environment but also of the memories held in these layered deposits of sediment and sentiment.

While on-site, Winder-Lind also created studies of the landscape and monotypes of rock formations, melding geological time and folklore. When he returned home, he continued processing this sense of place once removed. The exhibition brings together this series of paintings and prints created during and after his time in the Highlands, along with a short film titled *Clerestory Window*, made with Nina Winder-Lind, which captures the creative act between the artist and one of his closest collaborators. Nearly any of these works alone could stand as a keystone in this exhibition, each leading to the next, mapping a path the artist traced through the hills and shores of the Applecross peninsula, each telling a story of a time past or one not yet to come.

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Hugo Winder-Lind was born in 1992 in London, England, and resides in Brighton. He has mounted recent exhibitions at The Bookend in Brighton, UK (2022); Troze Gallery in Penzance, UK (2023); Faraway House in Sennen, UK (2024); General Assembly, London (2025); Nord Books, Sweden (2025). Winder-Lind draws upon traditional craftworks of rural England and the liminal spaces between wild landscape and civilization. Taking inspiration from religious and mythological imagery, he reanimates traditional archetypes with contemporary reverence. From this, he creates recognizable motifs centred on the landscape, folklore, science, philosophy, religion, and archaeology.

COLD PARADISE is a contemporary gallery in the Highlands of Scotland, presenting artists and designers in dialogue with nature. Situated in the village of Shildaig, nestled between Torridon and Applecross, the region renowned for its untamed, awe-inspiring landscapes. Unlike more traditional gallery locations, the gallery must contend with unpredictable weather, seasonal changes, and tides. Therefore, the gallery is open seasonally, May-October, and by appointment.