

NICK DE VILLE: SOME RECENT PAINTINGS



The Union Club is honoured to announce an exceptional exhibition by acclaimed artist **Nick de Ville**, on view from **Monday 17th November until Friday 16th January 2026**.

“The great challenge that the European tradition offers the artist is to be a painter of the modern world.” Nick de Ville

Some Recent Paintings is a bold body of new work that captures the glamour, absurdity, and spectacle of 21st-century culture. De Ville’s paintings are a masterclass in seductive surface and conceptual depth, presenting slickly executed worlds where politics, pop culture, and power collide.

Through vivid palettes, visual tropes, hyper-real textures, and dynamic spatial shifts, he offers a satirical yet sincere examination of our time; telling stories that animate the obsessions, rivalries, and ideological tensions that define this era.

A special highlight of the exhibition is *Amerika* (pictured), the first ever giclée print edition of de Ville’s work, released in a strictly limited run of just 10. The piece depicts Taylor Swift and Beyoncé as towering, divine figures on an elevated stage, while their partners, Travis Kelce and Jay-Z, appear below in a Renaissance-style comic strip predella. The contrast is playful yet pointed, casting the women as cultural icons whose influence eclipses the men beneath them.

Also featured is *Ubu Potos* (pictured below), a work that again turns to the American spectacle. Multiple iterations of President Donald Trump ascend and descend an architectural structure that leads nowhere. Riffing on Alfred Jarry’s absurdist play *Ubu Roi* (colloquially translated as “King Turd”), de Ville casts Trump in an infinite loop of self-importance, lost in the comic folly of grandiosity and the hollow theatre of power.

Together, the works in *Some Recent Paintings* form a provocative portrait of contemporary spectacle, where fame, politics, and performance intersect in increasingly surreal and revealing ways. With painterly finesse and wry humour, de Ville invites us to look anew at the material world we inhabit.

Please join us for a private view on Monday 17th November, which will also celebrate the launch of Nick de Ville’s new book, ***Abstraction and Other Tales of Art and Impropriety***, a collection of short stories published by Art+Music. Signed copies will be available on the evening.

BIOGRAPHY

Nick de Ville's career spans design, writing, painting, and academic leadership. A student of Pop Art pioneer Richard Hamilton, he emerged at the intersection of art and music, designing iconic album covers for musicians from his early creative circle. As a key figure in British contemporary art, de Ville has shaped generations of artists through his longstanding role at Goldsmiths, University of London, including what became popularly known as the Young British Artists (YBAs). Now Emeritus Professor of Visual Art, he continues to inspire.

In counter distinction to the cult of authenticity, he prefers forms of representation employing the following: the purposeful accentuation of perceptual processes, lurid evidential tropes, the rabid desire to shock aesthetic propriety, dream-states, chemical assists, Rabbinical zeal, reports of spiritual transportations, myth, eruptions of the erotic unconscious and other obsessional behaviours.

Although disappointed by the state of the world, Nick de Ville remains hopeful, buoyed by the aspirations of his many students who have proved themselves capable of wonderful things.

PRIVATE VIEW

Monday 17th November, 6pm to 8.30pm

Guest list only

RSVP to roz@unionclub.co.uk

VISTING

The exhibition runs until 16 January 2026

Monday to Friday | 10am to 5pm

Union Club, 50 Greek Street, London W1D 4EQ

PRICE LIST & ENQUIRIES

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