

THOMAS DANE GALLERY

'Steve McQueen – Ashes', *A Little Bird*, October 15, 2014

Until 15 November, 2104

It's a manic week for contemporary art while the Frieze Art Fair is on (it ends on Saturday 18th), and if you want to gain an up-to-the-minute snapshot of all the main players, do visit. The bespoke hanger in Regent's Park will be packed to the gills with dealers, gallerists, critics, buyers, viewers and most importantly, work. It's also a really good time to visit London's private galleries, as many will mount their most important show of the year during this time. But if you have time to see only one thing, then make it this. See Steve McQueen's show *Ashes* at Thomas Dane Gallery in Duke Street St. James's. McQueen may well be most famous now for his feature films (and in particular, last year's Oscar winning *Twelve Years a Slave*), but he has been a successful and much acclaimed artist for over twenty years, and won the Turner Prize (beating Tracey Emin's *My Bed*) in 1999. His medium, is, as you might expect, nearly always film, but one of the pieces, *Broken Column*, on display at Thomas Dane (at No. 11 Duke Street) is in fact a sculpture. It's an interesting work in its own right, but when seen together with *Ashes*, 2014, McQueen's film piece (showing at No. 3 Duke Street), the effect is devastating.



Ashes, 2014 is a mesmerising piece of work. You sit in a dark room watching footage of a beautiful boy standing on a boat as it courses through the Caribbean waves. You are watching a portrait of someone fully and intensely alive and filled with joy at this simple fact. The young man, *Ashes*, revels in his beauty, in his place on the boat, in the sunshine and water hitting his skin, in being filmed and admired, in being young and all of this is transparently obvious and wonderful to see. McQueen filmed the footage over ten years ago (but never used it, until now), and when he returned to Grenada last year, he asked after *Ashes* and it is his story, told by others, that is the voice over on the film. Do go and see it. When you leave, you are invited to take away a beautiful poster featuring a blown-up still from the film, with the words of the voiceover printed on one side. So *Ashes*' story will stay with you, in your psyche, and, if you wish, on your wall.

What:

STEVE MCQUEEN - ASHES

When:

UNTIL 15 NOVEMBER, 2104. GALLERY OPEN: TUES - FRI: 11AM - 6PM. SAT: NOON - 6PM

Where:

THOMAS DANE GALLERY, 3 & 11 DUKE STREET ST JAMES'S, SW1Y 6BN

Price:

FREE

Tel:

020 7925 2505

[http://a-littlebird.com/2014/10/15/steve-mcqueen-ashes/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A%20ALittleBird%20\(A%20Little%20Bird\)](http://a-littlebird.com/2014/10/15/steve-mcqueen-ashes/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A%20ALittleBird%20(A%20Little%20Bird))

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