**PRESS RELEASE**

**September 2020**

**Ian Berry. Splendid Isolation**

**Paintings and installations made of denim**

**December 1, 2020 – April 5, 2021**

U.K. artist Ian Berry (Huddersfield,1984) has been making virtuous figurative paintings and installations of denim for over 15 years. He uses discarded jeans, cuts them up into pieces and sorts according to hue like a painter places his color nuances to his palette. At first glance the work seems two-dimensional, but when you zoom in, you can see how different layers of denim are placed on top and over each other. The ‘paintings’ are in fact denim collages so perfectly put together. They are almost impossible to distinguish from a realistic painting. Ian Berry also makes three-dimensional denim installations like Secret Garden (2018) and Record Store (2017) which have been on display on multiple continents and at museums. They will be on display at Museum Rijswijk as well.

Ian Berry. Splendid Isolation is the first solo-exhibition of the artist in The Netherlands. There will be a generous variety of different series he made in the last 15 years on display, such as *Behind Closed Doors*, *Hotel California* and *The American Jean*. In addition to this, there will be multiple installations on display.

Ian Berry is a socially committed artist. With his work he responds to topical developments in society. His work is made of denim not only because he likes the material, it is as well because the textile industry is one of the most polluting industries. In his work he asks attention for this. In 2019, Ian Berry was proclaimed one of the 50 most influential people in the denim industry in the world.

The Corona pandemic is an important topic in his most recent work. The project *clapping* is an animated denim projection of clapping hands to thank the medical sector for their effort against Covid-19. The animation was projected on buildings throughout Britain and the US. This project is also part of the show at Museum Rijswijk.

In response to the lockdown in the UK, Ian Berry started the international photo project *Stay Behind Closed Doors* on his website. He called out to professionals and amateurs to send in a photo that depicts what the lockdown means to them personally. A selection of these photos will be exhibited at the show.

Need more information? Please, contact Diana Wind, curator contemporary art, dianawind@museumrijswijk.nl or +31630388366.