

Kurt Jackson – The Dart

Lemon Street Gallery, Truro, Cornwall

4 September 2010 – 2 October 2010

Private View: 3 September 2010

Childhood memories of rural idyll mixed with a schoolboy's excited view of war are at the heart of a new exhibition by the renowned West Cornwall-based artist Kurt Jackson.

The show takes place at the prestigious Lemon Street Gallery in Truro this September and tells the story of the artist's detailed exploration of the River Dart in Devon.

Kurt explained: "I grew up with stories about my father's evacuation, age 12, from the East End of London to Dartmouth and the rural chapter of his life that he spent there. When I asked him about it he wrote me a kind of diary about having a wonderful childhood by a river, fishing, crabbing and generally playing in the sun.

"He also wrote about the war in Dartmouth with the town being full of commandos doing daring raids across the water and the excitement of being a young lad and witnessing all that and being able to meet and talk to them.

"For me the stories and the material in them were very powerful and so I decided to go first to that place to see if for myself and then to trace the river back and find out where it came from."

Described in the *Financial Times* as 'one of Britain's most compelling contemporary painters' Kurt Jackson has had a distinguished career spanning almost thirty years.

Born in Dorset, he studied Zoology at Oxford before setting off on a journey around the world that was to open his eyes to the depth and details of a myriad of environments and cultures that enrich his work to this day.

For Kurt there is nothing to be gained by capturing a fleeting impression. Instead, his aim is to convey his feelings and sense of awareness of a particular environment that he knows intimately. It is an awareness made all the more intense by his deep understanding of natural history, ecology, politics and environmental issues.

The new show will chart Kurt's progress as he made his way along the Dart and will be accompanied by a documentary, filmed throughout the journey by his wife Caroline.

Kurt explained: "I very much hope the paintings in the exhibition will reflect the diversity of the landscape. What makes it special is the hugely range of terrain that it crosses through from the barren, windswept moorland to the untouched ancient

woodland. It is one of those routes with the perfect combination of woods and rock together and aesthetically in terms of its flora and fauna it is absolutely wonderful.”

On show at Lemon Street Gallery will be three floors of Kurt’s work including paintings, sculpture and pottery together with the results of his print-making and a much coveted limited edition artist’s book. Poems written by Kurt during his travels will also be given an airing.

Summing up his journey along the Dart, Kurt said: “I’ve walked the river, swum in it, snorkelled it and boated on it. I’ve tried to become as intimate with it as possible. It was a very fruitful experience and actually a true delight.”

“Kurt Jackson – The Dart” opens at Lemon Street Gallery on 4 September 2010. PV 3 September.

Lemon Street Gallery, 13 Lemon Street, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2LS

Tel: 01872 275757

Email: info@lemonstreetgallery.co.uk

www.lemonstreetgallery.co.uk