

# JULIAN PERRY:

## An Extraordinary Prospect

### *The Coastal Erosion Paintings*

13 October – 12 November 2010  
Private View: 12 October 6.30 - 8.30 pm



This Autumn's exhibition programme at Austin / Desmond Fine Art will feature the exhibition: An Extraordinary Prospect - a three year study of English coastal erosion, bringing together thirty new works by contemporary artist Julian Perry.

Following his highly acclaimed 2007 exhibition *A Common Treasury, The Sheds Lost to the Olympiad* this is to be Julian Perry's seventh solo show at the gallery.

Perry's paintings are enduring recordings of the changing world. Celebrated for their extraordinary fidelity and powerful imagery, his work reflects complex political, social and environmental issues.

*An Extraordinary Prospect* engages with one of the strangest and most profound phenomenon to affect a landscape: the disappearance of the earth. The exhibition title references the 18<sup>th</sup> century concept of the sublime (in which beauty and dread are conceived as two sides of the same coin) whilst also hinting at an uncertain future. Appropriately the Greek derivation of Sublime is 'to look up', a defining characteristic of many of these dramatic works.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of these paintings is the floating of their subjects in space.

*Perry: I needed a way of conveying the extraordinary sight of land dissolving into nothingness; the gradual disappearance of the geological bed from beneath a landscape's features. This process has no equal in the normal run of our lives, earthquakes are more deadly but erosion is more profound.*

Perry's response has been to make paintings that conflate two time periods (before and after the cliffs erosion). WWII Pill boxes, houses and trees float in the space they once occupied prior to the loss of the land upon which they stood. Finding poignant significance in the natural and man-made environment is a recurring theme throughout Perry's work. Here his gaze has shifted to the English Coastline, creating powerful metaphors of vulnerability and loss through these unique depictions of threatened landscapes.

Julian Perry (b.1960) lives and works in East London and has participated in over two hundred group exhibitions, both in the UK and internationally. The artist has received several major awards including Arts Council England and British Council. Perry's works are held in many public and private collections including The Museum of London, Guildhall Art Gallery and Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery.

The forthcoming exhibition offers the opportunity to see Perry's latest body of work and will feature more than twenty five large scale paintings alongside small studies and works on paper.

A fully illustrated catalogue will be available with essay by Professor Paul Gough and text by Will Self.

Works are available for sale upon receipt of catalogue.

For more information and images please contact:  
Evie Howard or Sethy Alamgir +44 (0)207 242 4443  
[e.howard@austindesmond.com](mailto:e.howard@austindesmond.com)  
[s.alamgir@austindesmond.com](mailto:s.alamgir@austindesmond.com)

Image: Caravan and Sea Mist II, 2010, oil on panel  
(Further images available on the following page)

**AUSTIN / DESMOND FINE ART**  
Pied Bull Yard  
68/69 Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3BN  
[www.austindesmond.com](http://www.austindesmond.com)

T: +44(0)20 7242 4443  
F: +44(0)20 7404 4480  
[gallery@austindesmond.com](mailto:gallery@austindesmond.com)

Opening hours: Mon – Fri 10.30 – 17.30 pm  
Sat 11.00 – 14.30 pm [during exhibition]

**JULIAN PERRY: An Extraordinary Prospect**

WORK DETAILS: All works oil on panel



House with Blue Sky, 2010  
30 x 25cm



Happisburgh Defences, 2010  
26 x 20cm



Coastal Tree, 2010  
41 x 31.5cm



Cliffs at Happisburgh, 2010  
20 x 26cm



Skipsea Bungalow, 2010  
25.5 x 34.5cm

For high resolution images please contact  
Evie Howard or Sethy Alamgir:

T: +44(0) 207 242 4443  
[e.howard@austindesmond.com](mailto:e.howard@austindesmond.com)  
[s.alamgir@austindesmond.com](mailto:s.alamgir@austindesmond.com)

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