

AUSTIN / DESMOND FINE ART

PRESS RELEASE

PRUNELLA CLOUGH

A HUMAN EDGE: PAINTINGS, CONSTRUCTIONS AND GRAPHICS

23 MARCH – 24 APRIL 2012

PRIVATE VIEW: 22 MARCH 2012, 6.30 – 8.30 PM

Prunella Clough (1919-1999) was one of the finest and most respected of our post-war British painters and a major influence on the generations of artists she taught and mentored. Her mature style evolved after 1945 and she has subsequently been placed alongside the 'Neo-Romantic' group of painters including Keith Vaughan, John Minton and John Craxton. This phase of mostly figurative work, however, was just the starting point. For the next fifty years Clough would continue to develop as an artist using her unique perception to examine the human condition and re-introduce the subtle hues and tones that colour the extraneous and insignificant shapes inhabiting our lives. In their forthcoming exhibition, **Austin / Desmond Fine Art**, presents an overview of her work from 1946 until her death in 1999 and will include multi discipline examples of her oeuvre including paintings, graphics and constructed pieces.

Clough's work combined casual and studied observations of the everyday: the banal detritus of common objects, the incursion of nature into the urban environment, and mans' attempts to subjugate the natural. A Prunella Clough painting makes us reconsider how we look at our world. It has that elusive quality of a thing half remembered, something taken for granted, a sensation ignored. The language of her paint speaks to us; it tells us that there is beauty to be found everywhere and in everything if we could only stop and take the time to really look.

Clough's first solo exhibition was held at the Leger Galleries, London in 1947. She continued to show commercially throughout her career, exhibiting at the Grosvenor Gallery, The New Art Centre and Annely Juda Fine Art. In 1996 Austin/Desmond organised Prunella Clough: David Carr: Works 1945-1964 and although Prunella was a very private person with a suspicion towards any exhibition of a retrospective nature, she was nevertheless enthusiastic and encouraging. Shortly before her death in 1999 Clough was awarded the Jerwood Painting Prize. The Tate Gallery held an exhibition of her work in 2007. The monograph Prunella Clough: Regions Unmapped by Frances Spalding will be published by Lund Humphries in March 2012. An illustrated catalogue is available from the gallery.



Image: Prunella Clough, Sheds, 1946

For further information or high res images please contact: Emily Austin

T: +44 (0)207 242 4443, e.austin@austindesmond.com

AUSTIN / DESMOND
FINE ART

Pied Bull Yard, 68-69 Great Russell St. London WC1B 3BN

T: +44(0)207 242 4443 F: +44(0)207 404 4480

gallery@austindesmond.com www.austindesmond.com

Exhibition Opening Times: Mon – Fri 10.30am – 5.30pm, Sat 11.00am – 2.30pm

Nearest Tube: Tottenham Court Road & Holborn, Entrance: FREE