

# Press Release

## MENIERGALLERY

51 Southwark Street, London SE1 1RU  
www.meniergallery.co.uk  
nearest tube: London Bridge

# Wendy Brooke-Smith

## Upstream

An exhibition of paintings of the River Thames:  
the sea, the City, the shires

13 - 17 November 2012

Opening Reception 13 November 6.00 - 8.45pm  
open: Tues - Thurs 11-6, Fri 11-8, Sat 11-4  
admission: free



Wendy Brooke-Smith, *Wharf*, 2012, 122 x 91 cm, oil and acrylic



Wendy Brooke-Smith, *Bermondsey Barges*, 2012, 102 x 122 cm, oil and acrylic

**Bankside's Menier Gallery** is a fitting venue for this exhibition of paintings by an East Anglian artist who now brings not only her work but also her subject matter to the capital. Inspired by layers of history in the landscape, and with an eye for the overlooked, **Wendy Brooke-Smith** takes the River Thames as the central theme for her latest exhibition.

***Upstream*** presents glimpses of the Thames, as experienced by the artist over the last year, from the

docile banks of Oxfordshire to the wild outer reaches of the tidal estuary, while familiar London views shift their emphasis away from transient 'iconic' skylines to the timeless qualities of the ancient river: jetties, moorings, houseboats, the play of the ebb tide on mud, and the occasional royal pageant...

**Wendy Brooke-Smith said:** "I've always been interested in the contrast between the ephemerality of human structures and the inevitable persistence of nature, and The Thames is such a rich example of this tension. Gherkins and Shards will come and go over the centuries, but the water will continue to form the same patterns in the mud!"



Wendy Brooke-Smith, *Weeping Willows Blackwall Reach*, 2012, 61 x 92cm, oil and acrylic

Wendy graduated in Fine Art from UCS, incorporating Ipswich Art School, in 2008. The regeneration of Ipswich's historic Waterfront was the inspiration for both her Degree Show and subsequent corporate commissions. Her highly successful first solo exhibition in 2010 further explored coastal decline and renewal, from erosion to container traffic.

**As Wendy explains**, her preoccupation with the Thames began with a wet walk along the notorious Broomway on the Maplin Sands: "Following this ancient and perilous route across a gleaming expanse of reflected thunderclouds was an intense experience of historical and natural forces, yet within sight of passing oil tankers and Southend Pier."

***Upstream*** closes on 17 November.

For more information, text or images, please contact:

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