

## Press Release

For immediate release

### **MEMORY & IMAGINATION: Dutch Italianate and Contemporary Landscapes**

Open to public: 23 January to 1 March 2013  
Press View: 12 noon, Monday 21 January 2013  
Threadneedle Space at Mall Galleries, London SW1

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A selection of some of the finest 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch 'Italianate' landscapes held in any UK public art collection goes on display for six weeks at the Mall Galleries in central London in January 2013. In a fascinating collaboration with Dulwich Picture Gallery, **Memory and Imagination: Dutch Italianate and Contemporary Landscapes** will be the first exhibition in central London for ten years to focus attention on this magical genre of landscape painting.

To highlight the modern legacy of Holland's 'Golden Age', the Mall Galleries, well known for its exhibitions of works by living artists, will hang a smaller number of contemporary landscape works in oil paint, photography and video alongside these paintings, providing an extraordinary sense of continuity and debt by landscape artists of the present to landscape artists of the past.

Many of the Dutch artists in the 17<sup>th</sup> century who journeyed to Italy, the traditional 'home of art', were fascinated and seduced by the magical light and luminous qualities of the Italian countryside. On their return to Holland, their sketchbooks and memory fuelled their artistic imagination, leading to virtuoso landscapes that recall the warm colours, tonal variations and classical features they discovered in the Roman *campagna*. These works were even more highly valued in 17<sup>th</sup> century Holland than the 'domestic' school of Dutch landscape artists so admired by gallery visitors today.

Fifteen of these Dutch 'Italianate' paintings, including major works by **Jan Both, Aelbert Cuyp, Adam Pynacker, Nicolaes Berchem** and **Philips Wouwermans**, all executed between 1640 and 1670, will be displayed in the Mall Galleries exhibition. Characterised by a visual richness in observation, as well as by a fine sense of humour, surprise and purity of landscape vision, this genre became highly influential to many artists in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, before falling out of favour during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A major re-evaluation of this genre, reinforced by the amazing quality of 'Italianates' in the Dulwich collection, prompted this opportunity for collaboration between Dulwich Picture Gallery and Mall Galleries. The exhibition organisers aim to introduce many new visitors to the poetic qualities of the Dutch 'Italianates', as well as to their continuing influence on contemporary landscape art.

The selection of contemporary works that will hang alongside the Dutch 'Italianates' includes fascinating works executed in oil paint, video and photography by artists **Emily Allchurch, Jeffrey Blondes, Martin Greenland, Tom Hunter** and **John Stark**.

*Memory & Imagination* is sponsored by Buzzacott LLP. Buzzacott is a Top 25 UK accounting firm based in the heart of London, providing financial and business advisory services to corporate and charitable organisations, and individuals.

# MALL GALLERIES

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Collaboration

This collaboration between Dulwich Picture Gallery and Mall Galleries continues a long tradition by Dulwich of sending paintings from their collection for exhibition or study into central London. It has been curated by Director of Mall Galleries, Lewis McNaught, with the generous assistance of Dr. Xavier Bray, Arturo and Holly Melosi Chief Curator, Dulwich Picture Gallery.

### Ticket Offer

The collaboration aims to encourage visitors to *Memory & Imagination* to enjoy the permanent collection in Dulwich. The £4.00 admission price to the Mall Galleries exhibition will entitle the visitor to receive a 2 for 1 entry discount to a major new exhibition **Murillo & Justino de Neve: The Art of Friendship**, which opens at Dulwich Picture Gallery in February 2013 upon presentation of a Mall Galleries ticket.

### Booklet

A special exhibition booklet will accompany the exhibition, with a feature article on the Dutch 'Italianates' by *Evening Standard* art critic, Brian Sewell.

### Exhibition Opening Hours

Open to public: Wednesday 23 January 2013 to Friday 1 March 2013  
10:00am-5:00pm each day

Late Night Opening & Talk: Thursday 31 January (6:30pm)  
**'The Pastoral Ideal: Fact or Fiction'**

Join us for a tour of the exhibition and a talk on the theme of 'The Pastoral Ideal: Fact or Fiction?'. Explore why poetic landscape painting remains so popular today and investigate the ways that contemporary artists re-work traditional landscape imagery.

### Images

Publicity images for *Memory & Imagination* can be obtained from Liberty Rowley, Marketing and Press Manager, [libertyrowley@mallgalleries.com](mailto:libertyrowley@mallgalleries.com)

### About Mall Galleries

The Mall Galleries champion new contemporary figurative art by living artists. Our aim is to promote, inspire and educate audiences about the visual arts.

The Mall Galleries in central London function not only as a venue, with three main galleries, a bookshop and a cafe, but also as the home of the Federation of British Artists, a registered charity established in 1961.

The Federation of British Artists (FBA) consists of eight of the UK's leading art societies, each of whom hold their Annual Exhibition at the Mall Galleries. A unique national resource, the FBA has over 500 artist members and serves as a national focal point for contemporary figurative art by living artists working in the UK.

### About Dulwich Picture Gallery

Dulwich Picture Gallery is England's first purpose-built public art gallery, founded in 1811 and designed by Regency architect Sir John Soane. It houses one of the finest collections of Old Masters in the country, especially rich in French, Italian and Spanish Baroque paintings and in British portraits

# MALL GALLERIES

from the Tudor period to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Gallery's permanent collection is complemented by its diverse and critically acclaimed year round temporary exhibitions.

For over a quarter of a century Dulwich Picture Gallery's award-winning learning and community engagement programmes have reached beyond the Gallery's exhibition programme to bring art to the South London community through outreach initiatives including 'Youth Engagement Programme', 'Good Times: Art for Older People' and 'Prescription for Art'.

The Gallery has been granted £2 million in Catalyst Endowment funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Catalyst Endowments scheme. This challenges the Gallery to raise an additional £4 million in matching donations by June 2016 in order to secure the grant and establish a £6 million visual arts learning endowment fund.

**For further press information, please contact Liberty Rowley, on 020 7968 0955 or email [press@mallgalleries.com](mailto:press@mallgalleries.com)**



# MALL GALLERIES

in collaboration with



DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

# Memory & Imagination

Dutch Italianate and Contemporary Landscapes

23 January to 1 March 2013

The Threadneedle Space, Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1



**Clockwise from top left:** Nicolas Berchem, *A Road through a Wood*, 1640s; Aelbert Cuyp, *A Road near a River*, Oil on canvas, 1660; Martin Greenland, *Even over Eden*, 2008; Philips Wouwermans, *Halt of a Hunting Party*, 1660s; Jeffrey Blondes, *Length of Days*, High Definition 24 hour loop, 2011-12

**For images and press information**  
contact Liberty Rowley  
[press@mallgalleries.com](mailto:press@mallgalleries.com)  
0207 968 0955