

CADOGAN CONTEMPORARY

Sargy Mann

21st May – 13th June 2013

Private View, 21st May, 6pm

Almost three years since his last exhibition, Sargy Mann, undoubtedly once of Britain's most respected painters, has a new show at Cadogan Contemporary. After a lifetime of failing eyesight Sargy has now been painting for the past six or seven years, totally blind.

In this new body of work Sargy confronts how he expresses the figures he can feel into a scene he can only imagine; figures which stand so defiantly in their space, in the foreground confronting the viewer with their presence.

"What I need to paint a picture is a real, physical subject external to myself."

Sargy Mann



Years spent in the Mediterranean emblazon his canvasses with sunshine, the colours seeming to pulsate with heat. Sargy's use of colour has changed throughout the years, often dictated by his condition, just as Monet in his later life. But unlike his Impressionist forefather, whose palette became eclipsed by earthy browns, Sargy's work continues to burst with colour; ultramarines and fiery crimsons, each dappled with residual marks of his signature Blu-tack, strategically placed to allow him to feel his way around the canvas, adding a further dimension to the efforts of this truly remarkable painter.

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Sargy's wife Frances is not only his eyes when he needs them, but also his muse. The repeated figure featuring throughout his work is both the Frances of his memories and the present, real Frances of today.

One of the great teachers remembered with huge affection by his many students at Camberwell school of Art Sargy has lived a life full of art in more ways than one. Now in his seventies, Mann is showing no signs of slowing down – on the contrary, he is more masterly than ever, his work is coveted in major private collections throughout the world.

Sargy is an enthralling character with a lifetime of experiences and unwavering love of art. We truly believe that if by some miracle Sargy were to retain his sight he would not be in the least surprised at seeing his own paintings in front of him.

He paints what he sees in his mind and has in a sense been released from the straight-jacket of the visual truth; his mind's eye is true to him.

A true testament to his unwavering determination as an artist, and individual, this exhibition is not to be missed.

Sargy is readily available for interviews.

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