

OPEN EYE GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE 06/03/2014

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ADRIAN WISZNIEWSKI

Exhibition open: Saturday 5th to Wednesday 23rd April 2014

Private view/book signing: Friday 4th April 5-7pm

PRESS PREVIEW: Friday 4th April 2-5pm, Open Eye Gallery

MEDIA PHOTOCALL: Private view and book signing. Alex Kidson and Adrian Wiszniewski will be available at the exhibition Private View on Friday 4th April 5-7pm to sign copies of the book. Please call Open Eye Gallery to arrange. 34 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE 0131 557 1020.

Book launch:

Adrian Wiszniewski monograph by Alex Kidson to be launched at the lecture *Adrian Wiszniewski in conversation with Patrick Elliott*, to be held 12.45-1.45pm on Friday 4th April at the **Scottish National Gallery**.

Lecture:

Adrian Wiszniewski in conversation with Patrick Elliott 12.45-1.45pm on Friday 4th April, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, Scottish National Gallery. **Free but ticketed**. Adrian Wiszniewski will be in conversation with Patrick Elliott, Senior Curator at the Gallery of Modern Art, to celebrate the publication of the first major study of his work. The monograph, authored by Alex Kidson, former Curator at Walker Gallery, Liverpool, provides an overview of Wiszniewski's art over 30 years of continuity and change. **Free tickets available from the Information Desk at the Scottish National Gallery or by calling 0131 624 6560.**

EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY ADRIAN WISZNIEWSKI TO COINCIDE WITH LAUNCH OF MONOGRAPH BY
CURATOR ALEX KIDSON

From Saturday 5th to Wednesday 23rd April 2014, the Open Eye Gallery presents an exhibition of over 40 paintings, drawings and prints by 'New Glasgow Boy' Adrian Wiszniewski RSA HonFRAS HRSW (b.1958). This important exhibition coincides with the publication of a monograph of the artist by Alex Kidson on the 1st April 2014.

The book titled *Adrian Wiszniewski* by Alex Kidson, published by Sansom & Co., Bristol features over 100 illustrations of Wiszniewski's most important work, including *Reading Allowed*, *Omega Man* and *Two Revolutionaries*, many of which will appear in the exhibition and for sale at the Open Eye Gallery opening on Saturday 5th April. Ten essays in the book mix chronological survey with thematic discussion to identify both the core elements and the more distinctive features of the artist's creative personality.

Wiszniewski was born in Glasgow in 1958 and studied at Glasgow School of Art from 1979 to 1983. After graduation he shot straight to prominence with large scale figurative paintings as redolent of fantasy and myth as they were attuned to the workings of contemporary thought and everyday life.

Acquisitions by the Tate in 1985 and the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 1986 led to his work being acquired by many public collections in the UK and internationally. From 1986 to 1987 he was artist in residence at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool where he met art historian Alex Kidson, Assistant Keeper of British Art. In 1988, Kidson became Curator of British Art at the Walker Art Gallery.

For the last thirty years Wiszniewski has continued to create work characterised by a strong drawing element and fertile imagination. Populated with contemplative figures set in vividly coloured Arcadian landscapes, his paintings are rich with symbolic, political and philosophical depths.

Alongside Wiszniewski, Open Eye Gallery will be exhibiting **Roland Fraser: *Found***, an exhibition of furniture and relief wall panel works created entirely from salvaged wood and inspired by the source of the reclaimed materials. Fraser's public and private commissions include the John Barbour Memorial

Panels, St. Machars Cathedral, Aberdeen, Joint Stool and Coffin Chest, Argyll Lodging, Historic Scotland and Skymye Knave Kist and Welsh Cupboard with the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.

He has won three awards at the Visual Arts Scotland exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy; the Flora Wood Award in 2005, the Applied Arts Prize in 2007, and the Open Eye Gallery Award in 2011. He has exhibited regularly in Scotland and has works in private collections worldwide.

Also on show **Simon Manby: *Sculpture*** featuring bronze contemporary sculptures depicting figures at play and in contemplation, and new jewellery by **Catherine Thomas** who incorporates etched or pressed silver and precious stones inspired by organic forms.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Open Eye Gallery

Open Eye Gallery, based in the New Town, has been running for 30 years and holds 32 exhibitions per year focusing on contemporary and applied art. For more information regarding forthcoming exhibitions and for news please visit www.openeyegallery.co.uk or mail@openeyegallery.co.uk.

Adrian Wiszniewski

Adrian Wiszniewski was born in Glasgow in 1958 and trained at Glasgow School of Art from 1979 to 1983. He was a leading figure in the revival of figurative painting in a group known as the New Glasgow Boys. His work can be found in many international collections such as the Gallery of Modern Art in New York, Metropolitan Museum, New York, Setagaya Museum, Tokyo, Japan, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Tate Britain, London and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. His many awards include the Haldane Trust Award in 1982, the David Cargill Scholarship in 1983, the Mark Rothko Memorial Award in 1984, the I.C.C.F. Best Design Award, New York in 1993 and the Lord Provost Gold Medal from City of Glasgow in 1999. Wiszniewski has had solo exhibitions in London, Sydney, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ghent and Tokyo. He is an associate member of the Royal Scottish Academy and honorary member of the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.

Alex Kidson

Alex Kidson, a curator at the Walker Art Gallery Liverpool between 1982 and 2008, worked there with Wiszniewski in the late 1980s. In a different field, he is an authority on 18th century British portraiture, in particular the work of George Romney. Alex Kidson is available for interview and can be contacted via the Open Eye Gallery or Sansom & Co.. He will be present at the lecture to be held at the Scottish National Gallery on Friday 4th April 12.45-1.45pm.

Sansom & Co. Publishers

Sansom & Co., Pembroke Rd, Bristol, Avon BS8 3EA, 0117 973 7207

Adrian Wiszniewski by Alex Kidson:

295mmx235mm

160pp

Full colour throughout

978-1-908326-61-4

Hardback £30

Publication: 1st April 2014

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Further information and images regarding the exhibition can be obtained from:

Open Eye Gallery, 34 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE

Open: Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm Sat 10am to 4pm

www.openeyegallery.co.uk



Adrian Wiszniewski

Omega Man, 2011, oil on canvas, 122 x 91cm



Roland Fraser

Wellington, salvaged wooden panel, 115.5 x 92.5cm

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