
ACRYLICS AND OILS ON WATER FROM CANARY WHARF TO CONSTABLE COUNTRY

Water is the unifying theme of **Wendy Brooke-Smith's** forthcoming exhibition, entitled **New Paintings: Still Water**, which runs from Monday 2nd to Saturday 7th November 2015 at Gallery Different, 14 Percy Street, London W1T 1DR.

This wide-ranging solo exhibition celebrates the bare elements of landscape: colour, shape, structure, light, energy - and water.



Isle of Dogs Eastward, 2014, 102 x 92cm, acrylic on canvas



Thames Wharf Aerial, 2015, acrylic on canvas, 140 x 100cm

Wendy Brooke-Smith draws inspiration from transience and contrast in contemporary British landscape, both urban and rural: her paintings are strongly planted in the 'here and now', yet mindful of layers of history and artistic precedent. Thus when the artist presents us with familiar landmarks she simultaneously challenges us to look beyond cultural clichés and iconography to what we really see and feel, not what we know, or 'ought to see'.

Continuing the theme of her sell-out solo exhibition at the Menier Gallery in 2012, this new body of Brooke-Smith's work includes several paintings of the River Thames, such as *Shard to O2*, her panorama from Greenwich Observatory, as well as pieces inspired by her native River Stour which forms the border between Essex and Suffolk.



Shard to O2:View from Greenwich Observatory, 2015, acrylic on canvas, 102 x 183cm (diptych)

Of her approach to painting, Wendy Brooke-Smith says: “As an artist, I am aware of our need to engage with landscape, to come to terms with, and ‘understand’ it, rather than simply to observe from a distance or through a metaphorical car window. Constable or Turner may have stood on the very same spot, but this is irrelevant unless we can find our own response to the landscape before us. So foreground detail is often important to me as a way of connecting with the reality of where we stand - a way of belonging”.



Flatford Series: Millstream, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 120 x 150cm

In the Flatford Series of large paintings, the artist uses striking reflections to focus attention not on the heritage of the location but on our personal experience of the landscape at that moment.



Bankside Pier East Study, 2014, charcoal on paper, 76 x 95cm



Stour Valley Freight, 2014, oil on canvas, 40 x 50cm

Charcoal drawings are integral to Brooke-Smith's process, as initial observations, and then as more developed ideas for paintings in the studio. Several of these drawings are included in the exhibition, together with smaller paintings and mixed media works on paper.

Wendy Brooke-Smith graduated from UCS in 2008 with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art. She has since exhibited in several solo shows and her work is held in private and corporate collections throughout the UK, including Hill Dickinson, UCS and Associated British Ports.

NOTES TO EDITORS

EXHIBITION DATES: Monday 2 - Saturday 7 November 2015

LOCATION: Gallery Different, 14 Percy Street, London W1T 1DR

PUBLIC OPENING HOURS: Monday 2 November 10.30am - 6pm (Preview Day)
Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 November 10.30am - 6pm
Thursday 5 November 10.30am - 8pm
Friday 6 November 10.30am - 6pm
Saturday 7 November 11am - 5pm

For press enquiries about the exhibition, comment, text or images, please contact:

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