

CHRIS GOLLON – Man In The Long Black Coat

Until 28th October 2017

IAP Fine Art, 15, Church St, Monmouth NP25 3BX
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(Pictured: 'Gimme Some Wine (after Eleanor McEvoy's song) 36" x 48" (91 x 122cm) acrylic on canvas 2017.

IAP Fine Art has a new exhibition of paintings by Chris Gollon (1953 – 2017), many taking their inspiration from songs by Bob Dylan, Neil Young and latterly Eleanor McEvoy. David Tregunna, IAP's Director: "Following Chris's unexpected death at only 64 in April, by curating this exhibition we want to celebrate his love of music, to show where it led him intellectually and artistically; and to share his fascination with artistic 'boundary crossing'". The latter began when Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth made a unique 60-second tape each for Chris, Yoko Ono, David Bowie and Gavin Turk, asking them to respond with a work of art inspired by it to be exhibited in 'ROOT' at the Chisenhale Gallery, London in 1998. Gollon was interviewed about this recently for a new biography of Thurston Moore, 'We Sing A New Language' by Nick Soulsby (Omnibus, 2017). Indeed, Gollon's ability to 'paint a new language' that reflects life as it really is made him unique. A friend of The Skids, he enjoyed the company of musicians, and one of his early museum acquisitions came when the Huddersfield Art Gallery acquired his large painting 'Einstein & The Jealous Monk (after Bob Dylan's Desolation Row)' for its permanent collection to hang with Francis Bacon's 'Magdalene (II)' and Sir Jacob Epstein's 'Einstein'. In 2013, he collaborated with Yi Yao, the Grammy-nominated Chinese classical musician to produce a 41ft-long painting and a 20-minute composition 'And It Came To Pass'. His most recent artistic 'boundary crossing' was NAKED MUSIC and 'Gimme Some Wine', which he enjoyed working on with Irish singer-songwriter Eleanor McEvoy. He would visually interpret her songs and those paintings would in turn inspire new songs born from his paintings. This exhibition shows Gollon's ability to take us somewhere new, with imagery partially inspired by Neil Young's 'Driftin' Back', Bob Dylan's 'Man in the Long Black Coat' and Eleanor McEvoy's 'Gimme Some Wine'. This exhibition is kindly supported by **Thomas Carroll Club Signature**.

Chris Gollon (1953 - 2017) is an established name in British painting, represented by IAP Fine art since 1994. He has exhibited in St Paul's Cathedral with Bill Viola and has works in major public collections including the British Museum. His Fourteen Stations of the Cross, blessed by Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, are permanently installed in the Church of St John on Bethnal Green, a grade-one listed church designed by Sir John Soane next to the Museum of Childhood. His museum commission to paint the Henley Royal Regatta 'Gollon At Henley' hangs with works by Dufy and Piper in the River & Rowing Museum, Henley –on-Thames. Gollon has enjoyed many solo museum shows, exhibited at Art Chicago and also with Yoko Ono, David Bowie and Gavin Turk in ROOT, a crossover exhibition of contemporary music and art created by Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth, at Chisenhale Gallery, London. His work is attracting increasing acclaim in the national press, specialist arts press and was featured on Alan Yentob's BBC1 programme *Imagine*. The book on his life and work *Chris Gollon: Humanity in Art* by art historian Tamsin Pickeral, and endorsed by Bill Bryson OBE, was published in 2010. Chris Gollon was made First Artist in Residence and Fellow of The Institute of Advanced Study (2009), Durham University. Later that year, Gollon's painting 'Birth' was used as part of the story in Hollywood's Twilight Saga movie *Breaking Dawn (I)*. His national touring exhibition (2014-2016) to English cathedrals 'Incarnation, Mary & Women from the Bible' attracted much critical acclaim in the national press, as well as a BBC interview with Chris Gollon by Clare Balding. Having travelled to the cathedrals of Guildford, Chichester, Durham and Hereford, it came to Romsey Abbey in autumn 2016, where his diptych 'St Ethelflaeda' currently hangs. Gollon had a lifelong interest in music and enjoys the company of musicians. Song lyrics very often led to exciting new imagery, as with his recent artistic response to the songs of leading singer/songwriter Eleanor McEvoy. From 2015 – 2017, they embarked on an artistic experiment in "boundary crossing" where one art form influences another, which has produced a new album 'NAKED MUSIC' by Eleanor (partly co-written with Lloyd Cole and with Dave Rotheray) and a new series of 25 paintings by Chris Gollon. This ongoing interplay of music, lyrics and imagery is now the subject of a new book 'NAKED MUSIC' by Jackie Hayden. NAKED MUSIC (exhibition and LIVE performance) headlined the Louder Than Words Festival in November 2016, supported by Arts Council England. Further in-depth interviews with Chris Gollon will appear in two forthcoming books to be published in 2017, one a book on the Annunciation by Mark Byford (Winchester University Press) and the other a biography of Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth. His official information website: www.chrisgollon.com. (Attached: 'Gimme Some Wine – Final Version' by Chris Gollon)

For details on any of the above, please contact Gallery Director, David Tregunna: david@iapfineart.com or 01600 772005.

Below: 'Driftin' Back (after Neil Young)' by Chris Gollon (10ft x 3ft, 3m x 92cm –first 4 panels oil on canvas, last acrylic on canvas, 2012). An impossible dinner party over 5 centuries: Durer, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Max Beckmann & Chris Gollon, all depicted by revisiting the predella format (and partially inspired by a similarly disastrous dinner in 1922 at the Hotel Majestic in Paris involving Joyce, Proust, Picasso & Stavinsky).

