



PRESS RELEASE

SHANTI PANCHAL: *Paintings of Exile and Home*

15th May – 5th June 2013

Piano Nobile is pleased to announce a major show of new work by Shanti Panchal: ***Paintings of Exile and Home***. A London-based, Indian-born painter, Panchal is renowned for his large-scale watercolours of subtle vibrancy, whose subject matter is at once challengingly contemporary and timelessly serene.

In the early 1980s Panchal developed a remarkably innovative way of painting, whereby 'watercolour is not just painted on the surface but injected into the paper many times, and I scrape that with hard oil-paint brushes and use blotting paper. The kind of depth you achieve is amazing'.

Born in Mesar, a village in Gujarat, India in the mid-to-late 1950s (his exact birth-date is unknown), he studied at the Sir JJ School of Art in Bombay before coming to England on a British Council scholarship to study at the Byam Shaw School of Art, London from 1978-80. He has lived and worked in London since then with frequent trips back to India.

In the artist's own words, his figurative works are filled with a 'contemplative stillness and tranquility, which at first belies the complex interplay of emotions and relationships between the figures depicted'.

His spaciouly abstracted paintings are partly inspired by Indian miniaturist painting and Buddhist frescoes but also by the visionary figuration of El Greco, Mark Rothko's immense fields of colour and the haunting backdrops of Francis Bacon.

Panchal has had numerous one-person shows in British public galleries and abroad. He was awarded a prize at the BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery, and received First and (later) Second Prizes at The Sunday Times Watercolour Competition (in 2001 and 2012). His work is in many public collections, including Arts Council England, The British Museum and The Ruth Borchard Collection of Self-Portraits. The Imperial War Museum have acquired two major paintings by him for their collection.

For further information please contact Matthew Travers at Piano Nobile Gallery,

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SHANTI PANCHAL, The Arch, 2008