

PATRICK HUGHES

PERSPECTIVE ANEW

September 10 - October 10, 2015
 Opening Reception
 Thursday September 10, 6 - 8pm

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Perspective Anew, 2015, Oil on board construction, 24 3/8 x 92 3/8 x 11 3/4 in

Flowers Gallery is pleased to announce *Perspective Anew*, an exhibition of new paintings by the renowned British Surrealist Patrick Hughes. The exhibition coincides with the launch of a 240 page monograph *A New Perspective*, with essays by Professor Dawn Ades, Professor Martin Kemp, Dr. Thomas Papathomas, and Murray McDonald. The publication traces Hughes' lifelong exploration of visual paradox and perspective, placing his work in a historical dialogue with the masters of the Renaissance and Surrealism; and setting his progress within the context of scientific research in the field of three-dimensional visual perception.

Since his breakthrough discovery of reverse perspective, Hughes has continued to confound viewers with his visually deceptive three-dimensional paintings, which appear to move as the viewer adjusts their own position. As Professor Dawn Ades describes in the opening essay of *A New Perspective*: "These really have to be experienced physically, in the flesh, for they are only activated fully by the spectator's movement. They thus take their place, with Duchamp's *Large Glass* and *Etant donnés*, Dalí's *paranoiac-critical room* (*Mae West's Face Which May Be Used as a Surrealist Apartment*), or the now-vanished surrealist installations, as creations that need the physical presence of a spectator to be complete, engaging the body as well as the eye and the mind."

Perspective Anew, from which the exhibition takes its title, features his new book presented in reverse perspective or 'reverspective'. Stacks of books, and libraries, have been a recurring theme in the artist's work, reflecting an exploration of ideas through the use of language as well as visual representation. Within *Perspective Anew*, two small three-dimensional reverspectives of earlier paintings by Hughes appear on the far walls, depicting artist's monographs from Avery to Picasso, and the Surrealist artists Dalí, Ernst and Magritte.

Artworks within the paintings have also provided Hughes with enduring subject matter, taken further in recent times by the addition of miniature reverspectives built into the three-dimensional constructions. *Perspective Anew* includes representations of perspectival works by Balthus, Steinberg, Escher, Klee and de Chirico, and a painting titled *The Allegory of Good Government*, painted by Ambrogio Lorenzetti before perspective was invented in the fourteenth century; forming a personal gallery of Hughes' most admired artists.

The Beyeler Foundation in Switzerland and the Maeght Foundation in southern France form the subjects of two paintings in the exhibition, *The Beyeler and Beyond*, and *My Best Maeght*. Notably, *The Beyeler and Beyond* includes a rare example of three-dimensional figures in the reverspective (two figurative sculptures by Giacometti), painted onto the frontal planes of the construction.

Skyscraper in an Apartment, recalls a period of time during the early 1980s when Hughes lived and worked in Manhattan. The painting refers to a variety of works by nine American artists, Basquiat, Koons, Johns, D'Arcangelo, Calder, Warhol, Lichtenstein, Katz and Guston, which are presented alongside a skyscraper in forced perspective, buttressing an interior wall. Describing the influence of the buildings and streets of Manhattan, and their gridlike compositions, Hughes says: "New York is a city in perspective, with straight lines of avenues and streets running to infinity."

ABOUT PATRICK HUGHES

Patrick Hughes lives and works in London. Widely recognized as one of the major painters of contemporary British art, his works are part of many public collections including The British Library; Tate Gallery, London; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow; Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Denver Art Museum. Hughes has exhibited in London and throughout Europe, Asia, America and Canada.

Recent solo exhibitions in 2014-15 include *Op Art - Kinetic Art - Light*, Würth Museum, Schwäbisch Hall, Germany; *Opperspective*, Scott Richards Contemporary Fine Art, San Francisco, USA; *Hughesual Perspective*, Galerie Boisserée, Cologne, Germany; *Patrick Hughes*, Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, BC, Canada; *Reading Paradox*, Hanmi Gallery, Seoul, South Korea; Gallery 360, Northeastern University, Boston, USA; and *Moving Space* at Panorama Mesdag Museum, The Hague, The Netherlands. His work also featured in the exhibition *Visual Deception II: Into the Future* which toured museums in Japan from 2014-2015, via Tokyo, Kobe and Nagoya. Upcoming exhibitions include *Patrick Hughes: Moving Spaces*, Osthaus Museum, Hagen, Germany, from September 2015.

In December 2014, Patrick Hughes received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of London's School of Advanced Study, recognizing his work with the School of Advanced Study's Centre for the Study of the Senses (CenSes) in the Institute of Philosophy. Pioneering collaborative research between philosophers, psychologists and neuroscientists has included experiments using his 'reverspective' paintings in combination with an MRI scanner to determine the parts of the human brain which process spatial clues. Hughes has also lectured at the American Institute of Physics, UC Berkeley's conference on neuroaesthetics and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and the Byers Eye Institute, Stanford University, USA.



Patrick Hughes, Photograph by Lloyd Sturdy. Courtesy of the University of London.

For further information and images please contact Brent Beamon.
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Skyscraper in an Apartment, 2015, Oil on board construction, 19 1/4 x 50 5/8 x 8 1/2 in

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm

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