

PATRICK HUGHES

FIFTY YEARS IN SHOW BUSINESS

14 July – 3 September 2011

Press View Wednesday 13 July 2011, 11am-1pm

Private View Wednesday 13 July 2011, 6-8pm

Artist's talk Saturday 3 September 2011, 4-6pm

FLOWERS

82 Kingsland Road

London E2 8DP

www.flowersgalleries.com



Leaning on a Landscape 1979, Oil on board, 183 x 122 cm

© Patrick Hughes, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Flowers Galleries are proud to announce *FiftyYears in Show Business*, a major retrospective exhibition celebrating Patrick Hughes' life as an artist.

Aged just 21, Patrick Hughes held his first exhibition at the Portal Gallery, London, 1961. It was an immediate and critical success, lavished upon by art critic David Sylvester: "This artist has the gift synonymous with creativeness of being able to be surprised by what the rest of us take for granted. Here is a painter who really has something to say, and his arrival on the scene gives me a rare sense of exhilaration."

50 years on, Patrick Hughes is one of the UK's most popular and best selling artists, credited as being the 'godfather' of the UK surrealists, solely represented for over 40 years by Flowers Galleries. Flowers, Kingsland Road, will present a diverse range of iconic works which best represent the artist's oeuvre, while a simultaneous exhibition *NewWorks* will open at Flowers Cork Street, from 14 July – 3 September 2011.

Included in the retrospective are works on loan from major private and public collections, i.e., Tate, Arts Council England; Patrick Hughes' famous rainbow series, perhaps best known as postcards, of which millions of copies have sold. Also presented are early works especially re-made for the exhibition, including gloss paintings from the 1960's. Flowers on Cork Street will feature Hughes' ubiquitous three dimensional Reverspective images, which confound viewers by presenting those parts of the picture that seem farthest away at the nearest point. The visual effect is one of constant movement, as images, i.e., of Venetian waterscapes, seem to spring to life moving to and fro, inwards and outwards, cleverly animated by the motion of the viewer.

Of Hughes' paintings, Colin Blakemore, FMedSci, FRS, Professor of Neuroscience, University of Oxford, says: "I shall never forget the first time I saw one of Patrick Hughes' large Reverspective paintings, hanging at a distance in an exhibit about perception at the Science Museum in London, swinging and swaying to the tune of my movements as I walked towards it. It almost literally knocked me over. I've spent much of my working life thinking about the way in which the brain puts together different sources of evidence about the 3-D world. But while I think, Patrick explores. He has unashamedly trekked through the no-man's-land between Art and Science, demonstrating the brain's remarkable powers not with brain scanners and fancy equipment, but with stunning images that are personal in a very special way – responding to the command of every viewer. His work can be judged, and enjoyed, at so many levels. It raises questions just as profound about the mechanisms in our brains as it does about the nature of an artistic representation."

Angela Flowers recalls "When planning my new Gallery in 1969, there was one artist who stood out as my golden choice for the opening exhibition - Patrick Hughes. His paintings, sculpture and graphics were brilliant, exciting, witty and thought provoking. He was a very important artist, and forty years later my opinion of him and his work has only been more enhanced."

EDITOR'S NOTES

Patrick Hughes' seventh book *Paradoxymoron: Foolish Wisdom in Words and Pictures* is now available for £20. His first book *Vicious Circles and Infinity*, sold 100,000 copies worldwide.

John Slyce's book *Perverspective* will be enlarged and reprinted for the event of the exhibition, *Fifty Years in Show Business*. Originally published in 1998, *Perverspective* was first to handle the entirety of Hughes' production. The third edition is available from July 2011 and will include a new chapter by Murray McDonald.

Patrick Hughes lives and works in London. His work is held in major public collections including, Arts Council England, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, British Council, British Library, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Leeds City Art Gallery, Manchester City Art Gallery, Tate, among others. He has held over 100 solo exhibitions worldwide.

Exhibition listings information

FIFTY YEARS IN SHOW BUSINESS

A RETROSPECTIVE

14 July – 3 September

FLOWERS

82 Kingsland Road

London E2 8DP

Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm

+44 (0)20 7920 7777

FIFTY YEARS IN SHOW BUSINESS

NEW WORKS

14 July – 3 September

FLOWERS

21 Cork Street

London W1S 3LZ

Monday – Friday, 10am – 6pm

Saturday, 10am – 2pm

+44 (0)20 7439 7766

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