



RENNY TAIT

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

15 February – 17 March

Private View Wednesday 15 February

FLOWERS
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NB to any young artists out there - art materials can be carcinogenic especially if used over a long period. Pay attention to the warnings on the packaging.....

Renny Tait, 2011

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

I am particularly pleased to be having this show at Flowers for personal reasons. I have just recovered from surgery to remove my kidney along with a tumour quite a bit larger than a tennis ball. I am grateful to the NHS for all my treatment and to the Flowers Gallery for standing by me. I plan to come to the private view - the first time I have done this for 12 years.

In the past I have been so focused on work in my studio that I have not permitted myself to travel or take time off in any way, except once, a 4 day trip to find images of Scottish castles. My work has always been painfully slow to produce and I don't like things distracting me. I need long periods of calm with no disruption and to achieve this I felt forced to keep myself apart from life - no holidays and no socialising.

I have paid a price for this self-imposed isolation with a steady decline into depression manifesting itself as increasing tiredness despite efforts to keep myself healthy with swimming and running. Realising eventually that something was going wrong with my energy levels I visited the doctor and ended up with a diagnosis of depression and stage 2 kidney cancer. Six months later, with the depression well treated with medication and the tumour finally removed I feel fortunate to be alive and looking forward to the future. I want to do many more paintings and I want to be around for my daughter.

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Renny Tait, 2011

Tait began his career as an abstract painter, and perhaps still approaches his work with an abstract artist's mentality. This is evidenced in his propensity to reduce forms to their bare geometry and flatten the picture plane to accentuate the edges of the canvas. Tait is also deeply conscious of the great tradition of painting and looks to the Old Masters, most notably, Giovanni Bellini, Titian and Poussin, for inspiration. This underlying structure, supported by the artist's classical skill and painterly sensibility, creates a visual harmony that is both powerful and seductive.

Renny Tait was born in Scotland and studied at the Edinburgh College of Art, the Royal College of Art, London, and the British School in Rome. His work is included in a number of private and public collections including the Royal College of Art and the Tate Collection. A catalogue of works will accompany the exhibition.