

FLOWERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PETER HOWSON

REDEMPTION

March 30 - May 5 2012

Opening Reception

Thursday March 29 6 - 8pm



Hades IV 2011 oil on canvas 71¾ x 93 in

Flowers is pleased to present an exhibition of new paintings by the Scottish painter **Peter Howson**. *Redemption* will run from March 30th through May 5th, 2012, with an opening reception for the artist on Thursday, March 29th, 6-8pm.

The art of Peter Howson is deeply ambitious in thought and deed. He deals passionately with profound personal, social and spiritual themes, using masterly technique to accentuate the positive, exaggerating line and colour, darkness and light, clarity and ambiguity. This is figurative, narrative art in the grand tradition. – Robert Heller, London 2008

Peter Howson has established a formidable reputation as one of his generation's leading figurative painters. Many of his paintings derive inspiration from the streets of Glasgow, where he was raised. He is renowned for his penetrating insight into the human condition, and his heroic portrayals of the mighty and meek.

His paintings are not academic or didactic in the style of history painting, but the sublimation of revelatory personal narratives. Religious overtures are preceded by confession, as intimate details of the artist's familial and spiritual relationships punctuate the parables of his urban imagination.

Howson does not shy away from the role that Christianity plays in his life and work. Through this spiritual guidance the artist emerged from inner crisis. The dramatic and dynamic paintings of *Hades*, which make up the majority of this exhibition, depict the struggle to find hope in the dark recesses of existence. They reflect the suffering of a modern war-torn and technologically obsessed world, yet a sense of salvation can be found within. Paying homage to Bosch and Brueghel, **Howson** crowds his canvases with figures of various shapes and sizes, including many familiar echoes from his previous works, writhing in agony and praying for redemption. This deliverance often appears as a radiant figure symbolizing the painter's daughter Lucie, another major factor in his road to recovery. In the painting *Outcast* **Howson** has used impastos to render a tranquil Christ, surrounded by a group of pariahs in search of atonement. This image could be deemed disturbing for many, however as with a good deal of **Howson's** paintings there is a question here as to whom is the real outsider.

Howson was born in London in 1958. He studied at Glasgow School of Art from 1975 - 1977, and returned in 1979 to complete a Masters degree. In 1985 he was made the Artist in Residence at the University of St Andrews and also a part-time tutor at Glasgow School of Art. In 1992 he was commissioned by the Imperial War Museum to record the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. He was appointed official British war artist for Bosnia in 1993 and a few years later in 1996 was awarded Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa, University of Strathclyde. **Howson** was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2009 Birthday Honours for services to the visual arts.

Peter Howson has exhibited extensively in the United States and Europe. His work is represented in public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Tate Gallery, London; the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; the British Museum, London; the Glasgow Museum of Modern Art; and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh.

For further information and images please contact Brent Beamon on 212 439 1700 or email brent@flowersgalleries.com

www.flowersgalleries.com