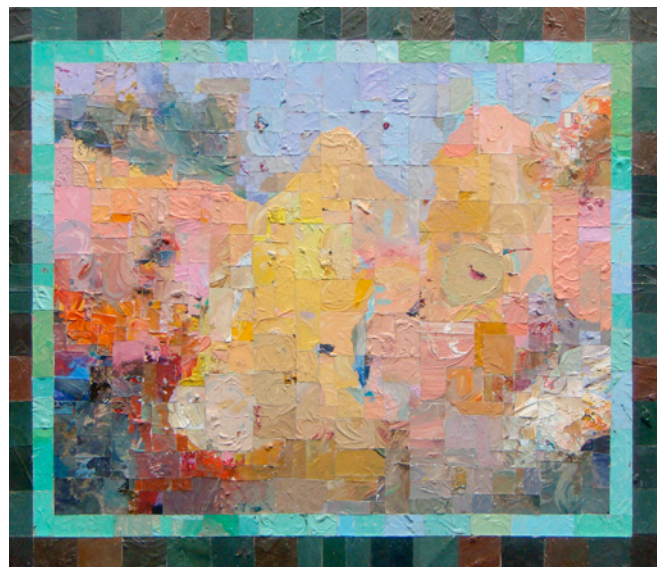


Tom Phillips

The remains of the day



The Remains of the Day II (Lussuriosi), oil, 2011

25 May - 7 July 2012

Private View Saturday 26 May 4 - 6pm

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I have never tried to have a style but tended rather to pursue some interconnected and relished themes and strategies. Most of these were initiated in the sixties and seventies and are still very much in play

Tom Phillips

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This exhibition marks the 75th birthday of leading artist Tom Phillips and features a substantial group of recent pastels which continue a cycle of large works on paper dating from his early shows at Angela Flowers Gallery in 1970 and '71. They encompass a wide field of reference in science, literature and music, as well as exploring the world of dreams in his favourite medium.

Phillips is one of art's compulsive recyclers of materials (hair, postcards, mud etc.), texts and images. *The Remains of the Day* is the name given to a growing group of improvisations made from the scrapings of paper palettes. They relate to the series started in 1969 called *Terminal Greys*, which form a border to the new paintings. The title phrase used by Ishiguro as the name of his novel was first coined by Sigmund Freud to describe the primal matter recycled in the dream life.

A Humument, described by Stephen Fry as *Simply astounding... and addictive*, and by David Lodge as *Utterly original, delightful and idiosyncratic*, is probably the artist's best known work, started in 1966 and continuously in print since 1975 when he finished the first version. Since then he has gradually replaced this initial reworking of a Victorian novel page by page. The Fifth edition contains over eighty newly replaced pages and is published by Thames & Hudson to coincide with this exhibition.

A Humument also has an exciting existence as an App for iPad and iPhone displaying this appropriately luminous artwork in an accessible and diverting way, incorporating as it does an oracle of life and love.

A new re-edited and restyled website of Tom Phillips CBE RA provides a guide to the artist's work and career and includes his own blog www.tomphillips.co.uk a current entry from the blog relates to pastels in this exhibition...

I seem to be in the middle of a group of a dozen or so pastels. Pastels again, yes. Somehow I find myself in tune with paper and charcoal and chalk and pastel and especially with the rubbing out of same, working backwards, erasing away, letting the paper do the white work... more like finding a sculpture inside a messy bit of wood; subtracting, getting rid of, carving back.

Tom Phillips



The Middle Years, 2010
Shaved tennis ball covered in artist's own hair



A Humument iPhone app

As well as Beckett's *Try again, fail again, fail better*, which Tom Phillips has helped make notorious, another motto guides his attitude to work (present in the show in a calligraphic treatment). It comes from Henry James...

We work in the dark, we do what we can, we give what we have: the rest is the madness of art



Glad Day 2012 Pastel on paper 61 x 46 cm



Shapeshifter 2012 Pastel on paper 61 x 46cm



Murakami 2012 Pastel on paper 61 x 46 cm