

{ Presence }

TREGONY GALLERY

{ Presence }

Three Contemporary British Painters

Tregony Gallery, 58 Fore Street, Tregony, CORNWALL TR2 5RW

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As an artist run gallery we are very proud to represent Mark Dunford, Daniel Preece and David Wiseman - three current members of the prestigious artist collective The London Group. To coincide with the group's major exhibitions at the Penwith Gallery and Belgrave St Ives, Tregony Gallery are pleased to present the exhibition { Presence }, highlighting the work by three artists from this innovative organisation which holds an integral place in the culture of British art.

Originally formed as a radical response to the constraining stipulations of the Royal Academy, The London Group elected its members through democratic vote and organised its exhibitions around the member's own choice of work. This ethos continues to this day, making The London Group the longest running democratic artist collective still in operation.

The title of the exhibition { Presence } is the connecting theme we feel runs between the artists' works. Through their own distinctive approaches to painting - from structured compositions and deeply layered planes of colour to fluid ethereal watercolour - each artist quietly declares their experience of 'presence' in their surroundings and chosen subjects.

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Mark Dunford, 'Big Bright Field (detail)' Oil on Board, 56 x 149 cm.



Daniel Preece, 'Window (detail)' Acrylic on Canvas, 76 x 102 cm.

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David Wiseman, 'Winter River (detail)' Acrylic on Canvas, 76 x 102 cm.



"Painting directly from appearances for me, is about trying to secure a pictorial statement of a series of glimpsed moments into a convincing arrangement of abstracted elements."



Mark Dunford studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, between 1982-1987 and has been a member of The London Group since 2001. Throughout his career he has exhibited regularly at a number of noted London galleries including Dulwich Picture Gallery, The Mall Galleries, the Barbican and Whitechapel Art Galleries, Leighton House and Felix & Spear. He has also exhibited at several galleries throughout the UK including The Royal Museum, Canterbury; Southampton City Art Gallery; Millennium, St Ives and Penlee House, Cornwall; as well as exhibiting in Europe at the Pulchri Studio, The Hague, the Mirror Gallery, Vicenza, Italy and the University of Wisconsin, USA. Mark has been awarded several scholarships and prizes including the Robert Ross Scholarship, UCL; the Richard Ford Award from the Royal Academy of Art to study in Madrid and the Winsor & Newton Young Artists' Award, in conjunction with the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colour. Celebrating the visual tension between surface and space, Mark locates and realises his pictures using grid lines and visible reworking. Mark places the presence of his works firmly with the composition of his subjects and their relationship to the space around them. His influences range from Cézanne

Piero della Francesca, Constable, Chardin, Seurat; continuing a direct line from the teaching of Euan Uglow, William Coldstream, Howard Brown, Norman Norris and Patrick George. Mark's combined palette of muted and saturated colour provides the onlooker with an awareness of his hand and process in building 3D space on a 2D surface.

When describing his approach to painting Mark states:

"My primary concerns are looking by drawing and using colour in a 'specific way'. I try to understand how 'things' appear by building relationships of colour, scale and shape that make 'contact' with the intangible and ever changing appearances. Colour may be used in different ways; it might be copied or adjusted to work. I am driven by how beautiful something looks, trying to balance observation, invention and imagination."





Mark Dunford, 'Big Bright Field', Oil on Board, 56 x 149 cm.



Mark Dunford, Left, 'Double Rainbow, Near The Coast', Oil on Board, 25 x 34 cm, Right, 'Balanced', Oil on Canvas, 46 x 31 cm.





Mark Dunford, Left, 'Grace', Oil on Canvas, 36 x 36 cm, Right, 'Flushing Bush', Oil on Board, 32 x 20 cm.



Mark Dunford, Left, 'Apricots', Oil on Board, 17 x 23 cm, Right, 'Last One', Oil on Board, 18 x 20 cm.



"The best paintings for me show you something you haven't seen before; it's about the artist finding a new way of describing something but allowing the viewer to come to some of their own conclusions."

Daniel Preece studied at Chelsea School of Art 1988-89, graduated from Slade School of Fine Art in 1993 and the Royal Drawing School 2006-07. His work has been exhibited internationally including The London Group at Southampton City Art Gallery; The First International Invited Exhibition of Emei Contemporary Art, China; The Lynn Painter Stainers Prize 2010, 2013 and 2015; Allen Gallery New York, in 2008; The Threadneedle Painting Prize in 2009; Five New Artists at Purdy Hicks in 2002 and the annual Flowers Gallery exhibition Small is Beautiful in 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2013. His work has also been included in the Canary Wharf Window Gallery Art Program in 2017, 2013 and 2009. He has had solo shows at One Paved Court in 2017; The Project Gallery, Arundel in 2015, Capsticks Solicitor in 2010, and at Gillions Art in London in 2008. Daniel's painting Panorama (from Angel Court), London was bought by the Chinese Government as part of the Creative Cities Collection initiative in 2012 and was exhibited at the Barbican Centre in August of the same year. He was also awarded a Boise Scholarship to travel and make work in the USA between 1995 - 96 and his most recent commissions have been for Bayer plc and the Topland Group.

Daniel's work is held in a number of private and public collections including University College London, Unilever plc,

Bayer plc, and the Canary Wharf Group. Daniel has been Artist in Residence at Level 39, Canary Wharf in 2016; Dumfries House in 2015 and Kensington Palace in 2008 to 2009. He was Artist in Residence and visiting Professor at IIFA, Modinigar, India in 2011. He was runner up in the Laing Landscape and Seascape Award in 2001 and won second prize in the Gilchrist Fisher Memorial Prize for Landscape Painting in 1997.

Spanning both rural and urban landscapes, Daniel Preece's everyday subjects - Gasometer towers, urban rooftops, barns and off-license shop fascias lack human presence yet capture the traces of our lives. His paintings narrate moments that are often overlooked or unseen, elevating them through tight compositions and vivid, primary tones. By confronting the viewer with a deep stillness, Daniel asks us to pause and survey the balance of structural form and interrelated plains of colour held within the richly layered paint.





Daniel Preece, Left, 'Chinese Cakes', Acrylic on Canvas, 32 x 43 cm, Right, 'Three Cakes', Acrylic on Canvas, 42 x 48 cm.



Daniel Preece, 'Deptford Drift', Oil on Canvas, 120 x 150 cm.



Daniel Preece, Top Left; 'Trio', Acrylic on Canvas, 60 x 92 cm, Right; 'Dread of Sheds', Acrylic on Canvas, 45 x 40 cm, Bottom Left; 'Worcester Barn', Acrylic on Board, 15 x 20 cm, Middle; 'Pink Shed', Acrylic on Board, 15 x 20 cm, Right; 'Italian Shed', Acrylic on Board, 15 x 20 cm.

Daniel Preece, 'Window', Acrylic on Canvas, 76 x 102 cm.

"I want to convey a feeling of change and movement in the landscape and for the paintings to be intriguing, tantalising and ambiguous held between the pure plastic qualities of the paint and all the celebratory, magical illusions and evocations of the depiction of nature"



Elected to the LG in 2013, David Wiseman's career spans 35 years after graduating from the Royal College of Art in 1975. Extensively exhibited, Wiseman has featured in many important painting prize exhibitions including New Contemporaries, The John Moores Painting Prize, The Hayward Gallery Annual, R.A. Summer Exhibition, The Discerning Eye and the London Group Open.

He has had solo shows at the Serpentine Gallery, London; Peterborough City Museum, Peterborough; and exhibited in curated exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; Kettle's Yard Gallery, Cambridge; and the Camden Arts Centre, London. Wiseman's work is held in many private, corporate and public collections including the Arts Council Collection, Prudential, The Bank of England, London Borough of Hammersmith, The Open University, Museo Municipal Ourense, Spain, Peterborough City Museum, St Barts and the London N.H.S. Trust.

David has also completed eight major public art works including large scale murals at Charing Cross, Frimley Park, Royal London and Ealing Hospitals. He was recently elected

member of the National Acrylic Painters Association winning the Presidents Prize and Adrian Henri Memorial Prize in their exhibitions in St Ives and Birkenhead.

The fluidity with which David Wiseman applies materials to the canvas creates an otherworldly atmosphere to real world locations. Provoking us to stop and experience the river running over stones and feel the gentle breeze through the leaves, Wiseman's coloured washes also allude to something more than the physical, temporal world.

Framed by saturated semi abstract shapes and patterns, the natural landscape of Devon and the coast, as well as his local Ealing parklands, are transformed into elemental, symbolic forms. There is an ancient presence in his contemporary scenes absorbing the viewer into the landscape.



DAVID WISEMAN



David Wiseman, 'Woodland Life, Brownsea Island', Acrylic on Canvas, 76 x 102 cm.

DAVID WISEMAN



David Wiseman, 'Winter River', Acrylic on Canvas, 76 x 102 cm.

DAVID WISEMAN



David Wiseman, Top Left; 'By The River, Morning Light', Acrylic on Paper, 43 x 62 cm, Top Right; 'River Brent, After The Rain', Acrylic on Paper, 42 x 59 cm, Bottom; 'Rushing River, Gorpley Clough', Acrylic on Paper, 43 x 62 cm.

DAVID WISEMAN



David Wiseman, 'Woodland Life, Distant Water II', Acrylic on Canvas, 76 x 102 cm.

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