

May 2007

Howard Hodgkin: Paintings 1992-2007 24 May – 23 September 2007

Howard Hodgkin's distinctive style and intense use of colour have earned him international recognition as one of the most important British artists working today. This exhibition, organised jointly with the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, celebrates Hodgkin's work of the last fifteen years. None of the paintings on display in the Fitzwilliam exhibition was included in the 2006 Tate retrospective which toured to Dublin and Madrid. Sixteen of the twenty-five works have never been shown publicly in Britain.

Hodgkin (b. 1932) describes his paintings as 'representational pictures of emotional situations'. They attempt to recapture the intensity of experience. Many relate to artists represented in the Fitzwilliam Museum's collections such as *After Samuel Palmer*, the iconic *After Degas* and the sumptuous *After Vuillard*. Others are inspired by nature - *Mud, Fog, Echo, Moonlight* - and by travel: *When in Rome* and *Venice Grey Water*. He paints in oil on wood, often re-using old panels and frames. Working from memory, he both reveals and obscures his subjects by layering the picture surface with bold colours and distinctive marks. His works are unique: unlike those artists who follow Monet's example and work in series, Hodgkin starts from scratch with each painting. The effect is to surprise the viewer again and again.

Hodgkin is particularly interested in installation, believing that the convention of hanging contemporary works on white walls needs to be reconsidered. At the Fitzwilliam, he has had the exhibition gallery walls painted in aptly-named 'rain hope' grey, offset by bulkheads covered in gold paper mounted like masonry. The effect is reminiscent of the Museum's Upper Marlay Gallery where Italian paintings have been displayed on Japanese gold wallpaper since the late 1920s.

An artist of international standing, Hodgkin held his first one-man show when he was thirty and achieved recognition in New York before he was known in London. He represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 1984 and was awarded the Turner Prize the following year. He will celebrate his 75th birthday during the run of this exhibition.

Duncan Robinson, Director of The Fitzwilliam Museum, said "We are particularly pleased that this very personal selection of recent paintings by so distinguished an artist will be on display in Cambridge throughout the summer, affording students and residents, as well as the Fitzwilliam's many visitors from this country and abroad, an ideal opportunity to enjoy these rich and striking works, many on public view for the first time."

The exhibition is supported by Cambridge University Press and is complemented by a wide-ranging programme of special events and activities, including creative writing and art workshops, which have received support from the John Lewis Partnership and Cambridgeshire County Council

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.../Exhibitions details; Further information and images

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Exhibition details (for publication):

Howard Hodgkin: Paintings 1992 - 2007 **24 May - 23 September 2007**

Mellon Gallery
The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB
Tel: +44 (0)1223 332900
www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

Open: Tuesday - Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00
Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, 28 May and 27 August: 12.00 - 17.00
Admission FREE

The exhibition will be accompanied by the fully illustrated catalogue *Howard Hodgkin Paintings 1992-2007*, edited by Julia Marciari Alexander and David Scrase, Yale University Press 2007.

Further information and images from:

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Notes for Editors

The Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum houses the University of Cambridge's art collection and is a public museum and art gallery with an international reputation. More than half a million objects and works of art are held in five curatorial departments: Antiquities, Applied Arts, Coins and Medals, Manuscripts and Printed Books and Paintings, Drawings and Prints.

The Fitzwilliam's treasures range from Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities to the arts of the 21st century and include masterpieces by Titian, Canaletto, Stubbs, Constable, Monet, Renoir and Picasso, one of the world's foremost Rembrandt print collections, Handel music manuscripts and the famous Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, one of the most significant collections of Korean ceramics outside South-East Asia, medieval illuminated manuscripts and outstanding collections of pottery, porcelain and medieval coins.

The Fitzwilliam Museum welcomes over 300,000 visitors a year, offers a wide-ranging programme of temporary exhibitions and events, and has an award-winning Education Service. The Museum is open Tuesday - Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 - 17.00. Admission to the permanent collections and to temporary exhibitions is FREE. Website: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

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