

14 May 2008

Christopher Le Brun Fifty Etchings 2005

20 May – 28 September 2008

A series of etchings by renowned British artist Christopher Le Brun – currently shortlisted for the Ebbsfleet 'Angel of the South' commission – is exhibited for the first time this month at The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Christopher Le Brun: Fifty Etchings 2005 will display in full the second of Le Brun's major series of *Fifty Etchings* published by Paragon Press (following the first series published in 1990). Made over the course of a year and employing an extraordinary variety of subtle etching techniques, this intriguing series revisits a wide range of subjects known from Le Brun's other work – such as the enigmatic horse and rider – while also introducing new themes and motifs. The sequence is carefully constructed, shaping associations and memories of literature and music as well as art. Like the questing travellers in the prints, the viewer is drawn into a metaphysical journey in search of meaning as well as beauty. This exhibition will mark the first formal display of *Fifty Etchings 2005*.

Christopher Le Brun said 'A year's work in 2005, the *Fifty Etchings* amounts to a fairly comprehensive view of my work at that time. There were several new departures which later became sculptures and paintings – the traveller pilgrim, the well, the underground chamber, the figure with a lamp, starlight, the double level – all these appearing here but long thought about without knowing quite how they originated. All for my usual purposes: enquiry, bravura, sentiment, remembering, a bit of technical showing off, and plenty of "what if?"

'Christopher Le Brun's 2005 *Fifty Etchings* portfolio is one of the most significant printmaking projects completed by a major British artist in the twenty-first century,' commented Craig Hartley, Senior Assistant Keeper (Prints) at The Fitzwilliam Museum. 'Much contemporary printmaking grabs attention for a few seconds with slick and shallow images, but Le Brun has invested major time in these beautifully-wrought etchings. They reward the close and careful looking that this show facilitates, revealing that the artist (with his printer Simon Marsh) has dared the medium to speak in subtly new ways.'

The exhibition also coincides with the dramatic new display in Gallery 12 of the Fitzwilliam's painting by Christopher Le Brun, *The Eye's Castle*, where visitors to the Museum will encounter the horse and rider once again. *Reminder*, the bronze medal that Le Brun designed for the British Art Medal Society, and which shares imagery in common with the print series, will also be displayed.

About Christopher Le Brun

Christopher Le Brun (b. 1951) has been one of Britain's most important artists since he established his international reputation in the 1980s. He works in painting, drawing, watercolours and sculpture as well as making prints, and his work has featured in significant surveys of international art in Milan, Berlin, Los Angeles, and, most recently, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Christopher Le Brun was elected to the Royal Academy in 1996, becoming the Academy's first Professor of Drawing in 2000. He is currently shortlisted for the Ebbsfleet Landmark Monument.

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Exhibition details for publication:

Christopher Le Brun
Fifty Etchings 2005

20 May – 28 September 2008

Shiba Gallery (Gallery 14)

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00
 Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday: 12.00 – 17.00

ADMISSION FREE

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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