

Painting with Light

12 October 2010 – January 2011

Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill, 30 Portman Square, London W1H 7BH



CANDLESTAR



Candlestar is proud to present *Painting with Light*, its fourth exhibition developed in partnership with the luxury five-star hotel Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill, the official partner of the Frieze Art Fair. *Painting with Light* is an exploration of the boundaries between photography and painting, through work of the five artists - Marcus Doyle, Yvonne de Rosa, Susan Derges, Brian Griffin and Tom Hunter - each of whom makes photographs that are both painterly in execution and technique and very often carry echoes and allusions to the paintings of, for example, the Renaissance or the golden age of Dutch painting.

The birth of photography was attended by the suggestion that the photograph could one day replace the painting. For the early pioneers of the medium it was the photograph's ability to precisely capture the details of a scene which was highly prized. However, since those early days photography has come a very long way and photographers now increasingly make work that is intended first and foremost for the gallery wall.

Tom Hunter, for example, was the first artist to have a show of his photography at the National Gallery. His iconic 1997 work 'Woman Reading a Possession Order' is a direct reference to Vermeer's 'Girl Reading a Letter'. The use of light in his work is regularly compared to that of such illustrious painters as Millais, Vermeer and Caravaggio. Hunter suggests that if these artists were alive today they would probably be photographers, and has previously stated that the film director Martin Scorsese can be seen as a modern-day Caravaggio. Similarly the work of Brian Griffin, one of the world's leading portrait photographers whose Olympics portraits are currently showing at the National Portrait Gallery, has been compared to the work of the Dutch Masters and the American painter Edward Hopper as well as contemporary filmmakers such as David Lynch. *Painting with Light* features Griffin's image of Liam, a steel worker from his series on those who rebuilt St Pancras, that embraces Renaissance Painting in terms of light and pose: 'He looks as if he belongs in the time of Brunel but if you look carefully there are all the accoutrements of the modern worker, the safety gear, the mobile phone...' Susan Derges' approach is very different, her cameraless works are the result of a direct relationship between natural light and recording medium, resulting in images that are effectively painted by light - in this case the moon itself. Marcus Doyle's night scenes, in contrast, conjure up aspects of traditional landscape painting. In a similar vein, Yvonne de Rosa uses light in a way that renders the everyday subtle and strangely unsettling.

All of the work featured in *Painting with Light* is for sale and all sales enquiries should be directed to Candlestar.

Painting with Light will be exhibited at the Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill from 12 October 2010 to January 2011.

There will be a Private View on Tuesday 12 October, 6:00pm – 8:00 pm.

The Artists

Susan Derges – born 1955, London, UK

Having originally trained as a painter Derges moved into photography and began to explore techniques of cameraless image-taking, exposing images directly onto photographic paper; techniques she has continued to refine and develop to this day. She has spoken of her frustration with the way that 'the camera always separates the subject from the viewer'. Derges exhibits internationally, most recently in Japan, South Korea, Peru, Norway and USA. Her work is held in many leading collections including those of the V&A, MOMA New York and the Hara Art Museum, Tokyo, and she is currently featured in an exhibition at the V&A.



Marcus Doyle – born 1972, Carlisle, UK

Marcus Doyle is well known for his professional landscape photography work, which has taken him all over the world. His work explores the places that are often overlooked or taken for granted. Slow contemplation is at the heart of his practice. Doyle will often wait hours on end to capture a scene with the correct amount and quality of available light, using a large format camera and long exposures. The results are a collection of landscapes and empty interiors which hover, as the distinguished critic Francis Hodgson has said 'somewhere between 'romantic beauty and sinister reportage'. In 2004, Doyle published his first book, entitled 'Night Vision'. Doyle has exhibited widely in the UK, Europe and USA.



Brian Griffin – born 1948, Birmingham, UK

The distinguished portrait photographer, Brian Griffin, originally studied photography in Manchester before starting a freelance career in 1972. Since then he has produced images for major magazines and advertising campaigns in the United Kingdom and abroad, as well as several books of his own. He has a long-standing association with the music industry, counting amongst his past subjects Siouxsie and the Banshees, Elvis Costello, Iggy Pop, Ringo Starr, Peter Gabriel, Depeche Mode and REM. Griffin's work is currently held by several international collections and he is the first commissioned photographer for *The Road to 2012*, the National Portrait Gallery's commission for the 2012 London Olympics.



Tom Hunter – born 1965, Bournemouth, UK

Having won the John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award in 1998, Tom Hunter became the very first artist to have a photography show at the National Gallery, London (2006). Hunter's current photographic practice, in London, focuses particularly on a community of travellers which he knows as neighbours and friends. His work documenting life in Hackney borrows particular compositions from the work of the 'Old Masters' of European painting. As well as having shown work in many exhibitions internationally, Hunter has undertaken various commissions, including one for the Museum of London in 2009.



Yvonne de Rosa – born 1975, Naples, Italy

Yvonne de Rosa originally graduated in Political Science before relocating to London where she studied at Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design. Her fine art photography has since garnered a considerable amount of acclaim. As well as being a recipient of various photographic prizes, including the first prize at the Pilsner Urquell International Photography Awards in 2007, she is also a founding member of the group '24' which exhibits work in unique public spaces. Currently she works in London on a freelance basis.



For further details about *Painting with Light*, contact Candlestar:

E info@candlestar.co.uk

T +44 (0)20 8741 6025

www.candlestar.co.uk

Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill

30 Portman Square, London W1H 7BH

london.churchill.hyatt.com