

FELIX & SPEAR

Modern British and Contemporary Art

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RICHARD COOK: *SHE LIES WITHIN MY SLEEP*

22 September – 3 November 2016

Private View: Thursday 22 Sept, 6.30-8.30pm

Ealing, London W5, September 15, 2016 – Felix & Spear Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of paintings by renowned British painter Richard Cook (born 1947).

"The image seems to be something that lies already formed deep in the unconscious memory, hidden but with shape and form, out of reach. Although I cannot consciously know these images, dreams or their nature their presence is real and demands expression through painting. The imposition of my will on this would destroy the magic that is imagination and golden and cannot be thought up. I have to follow and surrender to this force, unconscious will, that comes from inside. It is richer than anything else. The image is thus born in freedom. Cezanne said "When I think all is lost " and meant much the same thing."

Richard Cook Sept 2016



Something Rose 2010 oil on canvas 152 x 183 cm

Richard Cook paints the land, sky, the ocean, and tree. His subject is the seen world of nature. The horizon disappearing behind the ocean; the land curving into a strange tilt; and the air buzzing with an ecstatic presence as a chant humming the experience of the outdoors.

In Cook's mind the trees and watery spaces, the grey expanse of distance, - that seems to wrap itself as sensuously loving arms around the boundaries of the land, - are all elements of an incantation. The journey from the seeing to the doing lies in somehow discovering a personal vocabulary, which through the economy of painting returns the thing experienced back into his own world. It is an engagement with the

abstract broadness of form, rather than the minutely observed, changing topographical identity into a new dynamic delineation of a place. This mapping in paint is akin to a repeated walk along a known pathway where space, re-invented, becomes a margin of light and colour. And so Cook is caught in an endless cycle or rhythm, exploring the rawness of being inside the landscape itself.

Partou Zia 2008



Portrait of Linda 2016 oil on canvas 122 x 90 cm

ABOUT RICHARD COOK

Richard Cook is a British painter living and working in Newlyn, Cornwall. Born in Cheltenham in 1947, he spent his early childhood in Ceylon (present day Sri Lanka). From 1966 - 70 he trained at St Martin's School of Art, London, and at the Royal College of Art until 1973.

Richard has been exhibiting since 1976 (The Human Clay held at the Hayward Gallery in 1976 - selected by RB Kitaj) and has received awards from the British Council and the Arts Council. In 2001 he was given a solo show at Tate St Ives, with a related publication, and a major painting was acquired for the collection in 2006.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibition Opening Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10.30am – 6.00pm, Saturday 11.00am – 4.00pm

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Cameron Amiri 020 8566 1574 / info@felixandspear.com

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