



When and Mountains Meet

New work by Paul Martin

Friday 3rd – Saturday 19th April 2014
Dovecot Studios, 10 Infirmary Street, EH1 1LT

Exhibition Description

At best.....art is a gathering and fashioning of materials which are good into something better, into something which seems to reveal more clearly the logos of the person or object painted.

Rainer Maria Rilke

When Men and Mountains Meet comprises a definitive body of 100-120 new works by Paul Martin distilling his lifelong exploration of the nature of nature, and the ways - aesthetic, symbolic, poetic, spiritual – in which we see and understand it. *“To perceive nature in any way,”* Paul says, *“we name, measure, dissect or count it. When we are indifferent we abuse it. Signs, marks, symbols are how we convey what we have seen.”*

Widely exhibited and collected Martin is renowned for his innovative painterly practice, using beeswax, resins, powders, bitumen, magnesium oxide, ash alongside more traditional mediums, exemplifying Martin’s innovative painterly practice.

We live today, some might argue, in an increasingly materialistic and technocratic world, obsessed with the pursuit of wealth and enervated by information fatigue. *When Men and Mountains Meet* seeks to explore the psychological effects of living in such a world, and the human need to find, or to create, a space apart in which to consider the meaning and significance of things, the value we put on our environment and our sense of the poetic and the sacred.

Living our lives as we do also profoundly affects our attitudes both to our own immediate environment and, beyond that, to some of the most delicate and fragile ecosystems on the planet. The exhibition not only looks inwards, then, but also outwards, investigating how the

space for reflection created by the arts can alter our perceptions of, and interactions with, the world around us. Aesthetic acts, in other words, are also profoundly moral acts.

Landscape is foreign to us, and we are fearfully alone amongst trees and blossoms, and by streams that flow ... however mysterious death might be, life that is not our own is far more so, life that is not concerned with us and without us celebrates its festivals, as it were, and we look on with a certain embarrassment like a chance guest who speaks another language.

Rainer Maria Rilke, 'Worpswede'

This exhibition is part of a body of work which explores the mystery of the structure and diversity of the natural world, its ebb and flow, focused on the rhythm and substance of things as well as their sensed meaning and logos. This reality, the reality which Gerard Manley Hopkins described as 'deepdown freshness', is one whose perception demands of us time and space, quiet and intense concentration. There is no abstraction in these works, only an attempt to fragment in order to discover the inner life-working of natural things; to dismember, disremember, in order to remember our deep identity with the world around us. The works, which have ponds, sea, river, beach, shadow, worm and wind as subjects are intended as songs without words or motionless dances.

When Men and Mountains Meet, is perhaps the most significant statement of Paul Martin's artistic vision, so far and was inspired in part by Rilke's *Sonnets to Orpheus* It will feature up to ten large (4-6m x 1.5-2m) multi-paneled paintings, as well as approximately 80 smaller (ranging from 1.5m x 1.5m – 300mm x 360mm) paintings, drawings and collaged monoprints all created over the last 6 years.

www.whenmenandmountainsmeet.com

Warburton Arts

When Men and Mountains Meet will be managed by Warburton Arts, a curatorial and production team led by Peter Warburton. They have in the past five years been responsible for curating over thirty exhibitions as well as hosting fine art auctions, spoken word, music, film and live painting events.

Warburton Arts acts as a not-for-profit organization founded with the aim of fostering the creative imagination and facilitating groundbreaking new art of the highest quality, free from the constraints of the commercial gallery. They also aim to provide opportunities for art lovers and patrons, whether private or commercial, to become involved in the realisation of artistic potential and the enrichment of the cultural environment.

Being itself headed by an artist, Warburton Arts places the practice of working artists above all other considerations. Aware of the difficulties that exist regarding access to support for cultural activities, particularly against a background of budgetary cutbacks, they aim to provide long term assistance to artists to develop their ideas, and to act as an effective conduit between artists, art lovers, patrons and galleries.

Warburton Arts has recently secured the use of one of the most prestigious Grade A listed buildings in the centre of Edinburgh, which will provide a platform for future projects of great merit which might otherwise not be seen.

Warburton Gallery, 1 India Buildings, Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2EX
www.warburtongallery.com

Dovecot Studios

Dovecot Studios was originally founded as a tapestry workshop by the 4th Marquess of Bute, a renowned patron of the arts, and drew its first weavers north from the Merton Abbey Workshops established by William Morris. From its beginnings in the Arts and Crafts movement Dovecot Studios gravitated increasingly towards the fine arts, and since the Second World War has directly collaborated with artists of the calibre of Henry Moore, Graham Sutherland, David Hockney and Elizabeth Blackadder. In 2008, Dovecot Studios completed a £12 million refurbishment of Infirmary Street Baths, the oldest public swimming pool in Edinburgh.

Infirmary Street Baths were designed in 1885 by the architect Robert Morham, who was also responsible for remodelling Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh City Chambers and the City Observatory on Calton Hill. While retaining many original Victorian features, the sensitive refurbishment of the building means that Dovecot Studios can now boast magnificent modern museum-quality gallery spaces alongside its grand Weaving Floor and Balcony.

Dovecot Studios, 10 Infirmary Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LT
www.dovecotstudios.com

Paul Martin - Curriculum Vitae

Paul Martin began his studies in the late 1960's at Birmingham School of Art, a college dominated by Abstract Expressionism, before moving to the Royal Academy whose more traditional methods focused largely on life-drawing. Neither approach proved entirely congenial, but Paul describes those years as ones of *'productive disagreement'*.

Paul Martin has exhibited widely both at home and abroad, and has work in the collections of The Royal Academy, The British Museum and the BBC. Over the course of his career he has garnered many awards including The British Institution prize for Printmaking and The Royal Academy Awards for Painting and Printmaking.

1948 Born in Bournemouth

1969-71 Birmingham School of Art

1971-73 The Royal Academy Schools

1974-81 Lecturer, Sheffield School of Art, Psalter Lane

1979-99 Art Master, Rugby School, Warwickshire

1999-2009 Lecturer, The Leith School of Art, Edinburgh

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

1969 Northern Young Contemporaries Exhibition

1971-73 Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions

1972 National Touring Exhibition, Arts Council

1975 Free University, Amsterdam

1978-84 Aix-en Provence, France

1984-86 William Curtis Gallery, Perth, Australia
1991 De Weem Gallery, Westeremden, Holland
1994 Welcome Trust, Euston, London
1998 Evreux, France
1998 Longland and Ryle Gallery, London
1998-1999 Art Revisited, Groningen, Hollan
2001-2002 Bourne Fine Art, Edinburgh
2003 Flying Colours Gallery, London
2004 Northlight Gallery, Huddersfield
2005 Bourne Fine Art, Edinburgh
2006 Flying Colours Gallery, London
2008 Bourne Fine Art, Edinburgh
2009 The Henderson Gallery, Edinburgh

COLLECTIONS

British Museum Collection of Modern Drawings
Chancery Bequest, Royal Academy of Art
British Broadcasting Corporation,
London Corporate Mining Company, Perth, Australia
De Weem Collection, Holland
The Coq Collection, Amsterdam, Holland
Altarpiece, St Luke's Church, London
Ikons, Church of the Ascension, Rugby
Lynda Todd Collection, Bournemouth
The Royal Bank of Scotland

PRIZES AND BURSARIES

British Institution Prize for Printmaking
David Murray Scholarship for Landscape
Hacker Prize for Printmaking
Royal Academy Award for Printmaking
RA Award for Academic Drawing and Painting
Elizabeth Greenshield Foundation Award