

Press Release

For immediate release

Mews42 Gallery in collaboration with Myriam Blundell Projects presents:

Related

by Robert Fry

23 September 2011 – 27 November 2011



Mews42 Gallery, London

Private View: Thursday 22 September 2011 | 6:30 – 9.00 pm

"I try to create a relationship between the physicality of materials and psychological terrains. I'm interested in conveying a slightly brutal picture of the human condition"

Robert Fry, 2011

'**Related**' is an exhibition of paintings and etchings by the contemporary artist, Robert Fry. The exhibition marks the inaugural display of a new body of work, 'Related' – large-scale paintings completed over the past year in London. The exhibition also features a strong and comprehensive selection of works from various previous series: *The **Drawing Room Studies**, The **Purple Studies** and The **Red Series**.*

Robert Fry's enduring preoccupation is to find a visual equivalent to the metaphysical space separating the act of representation from the language of abstraction in the medium of painting. Un-coincidentally, the human figure is central in Fry's studies and remains the ultimate conduit to express his obsession with the concepts of form and norm, symmetry and deformation, and that of mutation and maturity. These concepts reflect the very fundamental definition of the self and how it relates to its immediate environment. In **Related**, Fry makes himself the central

figure of a psychological study opposing himself to his own father, where the ideals of acceptance and defiance, conformance and rebellion, identity and choice are expressed through the strokes of his brush, combining the precision of the line and the power of the color in depicting the infinite complexity of such defining paradigms. The wealth of details in space alternated with a disarming lack of it in other instances, the use of mixed media approach punctuated by the power of language and wisdom of words have become Fry's own vocabulary in the art of interpretation. An art he has exquisitely refined in his haunting and compelling pictures, to offer an endless and recurrent narrative to the impossibility of stillness in the human condition.

Robert Fry (b. 1980, London) has exhibited at galleries and institutions in the UK and abroad. He has had solo exhibitions at Alexia Goethe Gallery, London and Atelier2, Moscow. Group shows include 'Newspeak' at Saatchi Gallery, London, the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, Minnie Weisz Studios, London and 'Make Believe' at Alexia Goethe Gallery. His painting 'Red 2' was short-listed for the John Moores Painting Prize and 'Red 3' was selected for the 2010 Royal Academy Summer show (N.B. both paintings are on display in this exhibition). His work is held in numerous collections including Saatchi, Mario Testino, Blake Byrne, Museum of Modern Art Moscow, and in private collections throughout Europe and America.

Upcoming exhibitions:

** October - ** November??: *****, Budapest
** ***** - ** *****??: *****, San Francisco

An Artist's Talk will be held at Mews42 Gallery in October, during the week of the Frieze Fair. Full details to be confirmed.

Press Clip:

"Leading us back to Picasso via the spatial experiments and fine line of David Hockney, Fry extends and contorts space so that often the artist and model appear to morph into one another, while the viewpoint leaves us positioned high above them, looking down.

Fry has found a fruitful way of using the traditional skills shunned by most artists of his age. While his etchings lend themselves to crisp exaggerations of facial expression and posture, the best of his canvases...contain painterly expressionism within highly schematised designs so that the results are map-like abstractions of an encounter. The lighter they become, the more convincing they seem."

Martin Coomer, 2009 / Time Out

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'Related' is produced by Mews42 Gallery in collaboration with Myriam Blundell Projects.