

EMILY PATRICK

RECENT PAINTINGS

11th - 29th April 2023

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GLORIOUS EXHIBITION THAT DELIGHTS

A new exhibition of paintings by Emily Patrick will open on 11th April 2023 at Gallery Eight, 8 Duke Street, St. James's, London. The collection is rooted in traditional European culture, with views of Winchester and Cambridge, of a mother and her newborn baby. These are viewed with a tenderness and a freshness, an echo of Mary Cassatt. She brings similar grace to a makeshift washing-line, an empty tent or a wiggly gate lost in a landscape. Patrick's world is full of delight which she wishes us to feel too.

The paintings take one inside the artist's home in Greenwich. Timeless Georgian windows often appear, the source of the joyous light that frequently radiates out of the paintings. The still-lives, while apparently indoors, often seem to be at the same time outside, with the sky above them. Patrick can share the beauty of rubber bands around a bunch of asparagus, a door handle or a washbasin.

Most of all the exhibition is a floral feast. A flowering hyacinth bulb, great bouquets of lilac and fiery red tulips, candles of horse chestnut, tumbling yellow roses, cytusus with foxgloves, daffodils and tulips. Patrick's arrangements always appear spontaneous. Outside, the character of a plant's position in the garden is more important. Foxgloves reach skyward, crocuses are lost in a lawn.

Beyond the composition, the quality of the craftsmanship stands out. So much of the magic is created by the handling of the paint, which can be tender, excited, bold, layered, translucent, and is always worthy of close study. She paints with a speed that means many of the subjects still feel full of movement and freshness.

The frames, some in ebony, walnut or London plane, others gessoed and gilded with later layers of coloured wax, reflect the variety and craftsmanship in the paintings. They have been made by Patrick together with her husband and their son.

In a carefully-composed 72-page and fully-illustrated catalogue, Patrick introduces with two sentences. "This work's purpose is to celebrate the beauty in the world that we may sometimes forget. I hope that here you will find strength, joy and serenity." She closes with two more. "Thank you, the viewer, for looking well. Without being looked upon, these paintings are like seeds that receive no water." Here is a painter that cares about the welfare of her audience.

The exhibition is open daily from 11th April to 29th April.

ON PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS

“...proof that good old-fashioned painting can still feel fresh. Emily Patrick turns the mundane into the magical.”

The Times, September 26th 2020, Rachel Campbell-Johnston

“...among the most individually expressive painters working today.”

Financial Times, October 7th 2017, Jackie Wullschlager

“Rather than the sublime, what Emily captures is the joyfulness of the quotidian and the bursting energy of the natural world.”

Country Life, 4th October 2017, Emma Crichton-Miller

“the Wordsworth of the art world, painting the countryside in a delicate way.”

Jilly Cooper

“Her mother and baby pictures are as good as Mary Cassatt... her flower pieces are good enough to stand comparison with Fantin-Latour class.”

The Independent

“Patrick’s paintings: ... continually invite our gaze and reward it. We never tire of looking at them, and each revisiting yields fresh pleasures and insights.”

Dr Paula Nuttall

BIOGRAPHY

Patrick grew up on a sheep farm in an isolated valley in East Kent. As a child, she spent much time alone in the woods and fields around the farm, and this developed her ability to see and feel nature with an intensity that continues to inspire her to paint it. Later, while handling antiques in her father’s shop in Folkestone, she learnt to appreciate the beauty of good craftsmanship.

She did not attend art school but learnt about painting from summer trips to European art galleries that she was sent on by her parents from the age of fifteen. Following school, she attended the Architectural Association and Cambridge University where she studied architecture. These studies taught her a sense of composition, structure and three-dimensional space.

After University, Patrick declared herself a portrait painter. She remains very grateful for the trust of those early patrons. Between commissions she began to produce her own compositions and had her first solo show with Sarah Long in 1984. Five shows with Thomas Agnew & Sons followed. Since 1997, she has shown independently every three years, curating the exhibitions with her husband. They have a carpentry workshop in their home beside the kitchen. The frames are variously gessoed, coloured, gilded and in raw and polished woods, each one according to its own spirit.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A short film, further commentary and archive, can be found on Emily Patrick’s website.

website: www.emilypatrick.com

CONTACT

For images, a catalogue or to visit the studio, please contact Michael Perry.

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Gentle Light on Windowsill



Foxgloves and Peonies



Lilac and Abutilon



Windowsill and Doorway



Many Maple Leaves



Boating on the Cam