

McALLISTER THOMAS

PRESS RELEASE

LYRIC PIECES
HUGO GRENVILLE

6 OCTOBER - 23 OCTOBER 2018

OPENING RECEPTION:
SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER 10 - 5

HUGO GRENVILLE IN ATTENDANCE



McAllister Thomas is delighted to present their first solo exhibition by Hugo Grenville, one of the country's leading colourist painters. It has been 10 years since Hugo's last solo exhibition in the UK. The title for the exhibition - 'Lyric Pieces' - is taken from a series of piano compositions written by Edvard Grieg which were published in a period of 10 years between 1867 and 1901.

Hugo describes the new collection of works:

"This recent collection of paintings for McAllister Thomas constitute an unashamed and joyous celebration of life, a passionate defence of beauty and domestic harmony, steeped in the English Romantic tradition. The work embraces both my signature figure and interior subjects, as well as landscapes painted out of doors, and all the paintings share my belief in the transforming power of colour and light, the revelation that behind the surface can be found a deeper resonance. Lucien Freud, comparing the work of Matisse and Picasso, said that Matisse was "concerned with the life of forms", whereas Picasso was out to "amaze, surprise and astonish". I stand firmly in the camp of Matisse, and strive to bring out the eternal qualities of light expressed through colour, qualities which influence strongly the way we react emotionally, the way we read a scene.

If we pause in our busy lives, stand still and contemplate our surroundings for a minute or two we start to become aware of the forms around us, the way the light glances off surfaces and affects the solidity of objects, the way colours exist only in relation to other colours. Through the arrangement of shape, line, pattern and colour I try to conjure the lyrical and the dreamlike, a place at peace with itself. The still life and figure paintings do not generally represent an actual moment in time, but are rather the result of a process of reflection, recollection and reinvention, a distillation of human experience. The flowers in the jug, or the nude on the bed belong not to now, but to all time, just as the abstract elements of colour and light are timeless, and connect us to both the past and the future, to the visible world, and to the invisible."

Notes to editors:

The opening reception will be held on Saturday October 6, 2018. For press information on specific works in the exhibition, interviews, or high resolution images please contact the Gallery Director. press@mcallisterthomasfineart.co.uk

About Hugo Grenville

Hugo Grenville first exhibited in London at the Chelsea Arts Society at the age of 15, although it took him another 14 years to become a full time painter. After leaving school he travelled the Hippy Trail to India, ran out of money, joined the Coldstream Guards and served as an officer in Northern Ireland, West Africa, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) during the Civil War, and finally as an Aide-de-Camp to C-in-C British Army of the Rhine, during which time he painted whenever possible, and studied part-time at Chelsea School of Art and Heatherley's.

Working first in advertising and then as an art dealer, he finally submitted to the need to paint full-time at the age of 30. With 20 one-man shows under his belt at major galleries in London, New York and Palm Beach, Hugo has forged an enviable reputation as one of the country's leading colourist painters, resulting in invitations to lecture and teach from institutions such as Falmouth School of Art and the V & A Museum. His fabric designs were included in the Liberty's Spring/Summer Collection of 2011, and he was short listed for the Threadneedle Prize in 2013.

During his career he has painted many portraits of leading figures, including the late Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Runcie, and the counter-tenor Michael Chance in the role of Orpheus at the ENO; he was an Official War Artist in Bosnia in 1995, and has been commissioned by a number of institutions including the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, Edinburgh City Council and The China Club, Hong Kong.

As well as writing regularly for The Artist magazine, Hugo has built a reputation as an inspirational teacher, running short courses at The Grenville School of Painting in Bristol which attract students from the US and Europe as well as from all over Britain.

Hugo's work can be found in many important collections including, Edinburgh City Council, The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, The Ministry of Defence, The China Club, Hong Kong, The Tresco Estate, Pembroke Management, The Duke of Devonshire, Searcy's, Duke's Hotel St James's and The Earl of Verulam.

About McAllister Thomas Fine Art

McAllister Thomas is a contemporary art gallery that works with exciting emerging and established artists. The gallery was founded in 2007 and is located in the market town of Godalming, Surrey. McAllister Thomas runs an on-going calendar of exhibitions throughout the year. The diversity and quality of original works exhibited has earned the gallery an enviable reputation with new and existing collectors.

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