



adam gallery

JAMES JUDGE

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Marsh and River

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Marsh and River : London Loop

This new series of paintings take their subject from a triangle of land on the north side of the river Thames.

Bordering outer London and Essex, the footpath called the London Loop skirts the low-lying area of marsh. Reclaimed from its semi-industrial past, now a haven for all species of wildlife, this magical place retains a melancholy beauty.

James Judge



'A Dialogue with the Thames'

James Judge is an artist inspired by his surroundings. His recent work is based around the Rainham marshes that border the river Thames on the north side. A contradictory place, these medieval marshes are one of very few ancient landscapes remaining in London, and are now preserved as a nature reserve, yet they also contain disused structures remaining from former industry in the area.

The artist was born in Deptford, on the river, and has always painted in the surrounding area. He sees it as the heart of London, explaining 'everything comes from the river'. Now living and working in Leigh-on-Sea, at the mouth of the Thames, it is a landscape with which he has a deep affinity. The cumulative build up of layers of memory is very important to him, as his work is evocative rather than realist. The landscape gives his work a centring structure: a horizon, foreground, middle ground and sky, then Judge can focus on the feeling of a place at different times of day and in different light.

Whilst the subject matter of the Thames is grounded in the natural world, James Judge creates an 'other world' coloured by experience and memory. Thinking about the landscape becomes as important to the artist as being in it. Becoming absorbed in one of his paintings is like becoming absorbed by the river itself: suddenly you are far removed from the bustle of London life. He creates a contemplative space for the imagination and 'a dialogue with the Thames estuary' to take place.

The mix of oil, pencil, gouache, ink and acrylic on paper and canvas creates a surface that has a strong visual impact. Judge's compositions and colour palette show the legacy of American artists such as Richard Diebenkorn – particularly the aerial landscapes of his 'Ocean Park' series - and the abstract urban landscapes of Willem de Kooning. In his exploration of colour and light, we can also see influences as diverse as Mark Rothko and J.M.W Turner.

Born in 1958, James Judge studied at the Byam Shaw School of Art, London and won the Richard Ford Award from the Royal Academy of Arts for a travelling scholarship to the Prado, Madrid. He has exhibited and sold widely throughout the UK, Europe and the US, including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition (2005 and 2008). Recent awards include the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize (2008) and the Threadneedle Prize (2009).

Isabel Kidel



3. Loop Light oil on canvas 81 x 90 cm



4. Field Pillbox oil on board 40 x 51 cm



5. Changing Light oil on canvas 107 x 112 cm



6. Farm oil on canvas 30 x 40 cm



7. Marsh Movement oil on canvas 102 x 127 cm



8. Development oil on board 61 x 61 cm



9. Towards the Loop oil on canvas 73 x 77 cm



10. Hillside oil on canvas 41 x 36 cm



11. Mid-day Marsh oil on paper 48 x 52 cm



12. Pillbox Mid-day oil on canvas 40 x 51 cm



13. Marsh and Ridge oil on canvas 81 x 90 cm



14. The Loop - Low Light oil on paper 46 x 51 cm



15. Island oil on canvas 76 x 76 cm



16. Road View oil on canvas 41 x 56 cm



17. Playing Field oil on board 40.5 x 50 cm



18. Marsh Study oil on canvas 46 x 46 cm



19. Marsh Activity oil on canvas 81 x 90 cm



20. Pillbox and Pylon oil on board 40 x 50 cm



21. Marsh Light oil on canvas 77 x 87 cm



22. Riverside Hut oil on canvas 41 x 41 cm

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