

Clive Head: Zoetic-Realism, New Paintings, Drawings and Prints

16 November – 22 December 2017

Opening Reception:

Thursday, 16 November, 6–8pm (*The artist will be in attendance*)

Clive Head is widely considered one of the leading realist painters of his generation. In the upcoming exhibition, *Clive Head: Zoetic-Realism*, Hollis Taggart Galleries will present a selection of works, on canvas and paper, to launch the artist's association with the gallery. This is the first solo exhibition to bring a substantial body of Head's recent work together – twenty-four paintings, drawings and etchings will be displayed in the exhibition.

Born in England, in Maidstone, Kent, Head has garnered much acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic over the many decades of his career. This exhibition, aptly titled, bears witness to the way Head capture life around him. His highly complex compositions of human activities are *zoetic* and energized. And, unlike past Photorealists, Head does not reveal a single moment frozen in time. Instead, with deft ability, he captures multiple perspectives with multiple concurrent timelines, moving through time and space. These fragmented urban depictions, most often with figures are in essence time-lapsed compilations. The compositions are highly engaging and immediately fascinate the observer. Time seems to come to a kaleidoscopic halt on his canvases and his subjects are masterfully rendered.

Seen against Head's forerunners such as David Hockney and Lucian Freud, and of his contemporaries such as Peter Doig, it was clear that Head had established a unique position in the contemporary arena. In one of the show's highlights, *Les Souvenirs du Café Anglais* the artist characteristically fractures a scene from his familiar environment. The painting, which was previously shown in, *REALITY: Modern and Contemporary British Painting*, is simultaneously a study in motion and stillness, tantalizing



Flee to Banbury Cross, 1963, 2017, Oil on canvas, 57 x 49 inches



Cosmos (Drawing for Summer Ark), 2014/2017
Graphite and acrylic on tracing paper, 5 3/4 x 5 3/4 inches

the viewer. Similarly *Summer Ark*, *Wash Day with Actaeon* and *Siddal's Ferry* are based on observations from the rural Yorkshire village in the North of England.

A child prodigy beginning his instruction at the Reeds Art Club at the age of eleven, Head later attended Aberystwyth University. In 1994, he became Chair of the Fine Art Department at the University of York, lecturing on method, theory and art history. He also began participating in exhibitions throughout the U.K., Europe and America. He was commissioned in 2005 to create a painting of Buckingham Palace to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth. In 2010, Head was invited by the National Gallery in London to show three large-scale paintings of the city; the exhibition drawing record attendance and receiving myriad accolades.

This exhibition is organized in collaboration with Landau Fine Art and a joint hard-covered exhibition catalogue is available with an essay by Colin Wiggins the former Special Projects Coordinator at the National Gallery, London. He curated Head's exhibition *Clive Head: Modern Perspectives* at the National Gallery in 2010.

PRESS CONTACT

Ginx Hudgins
ginx@hollistaggart.com
212.628.4000

HOLLIS TAGGART GALLERIES specializes in Contemporary, Abstract Expressionist, Pop, and American Post-War art. Established 1979. The gallery is open Monday–Friday, 10 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, images, or to arrange a viewing, please call 212.628.4000 or email info@hollistaggart.com.



Siddal's Ferry, 2015, Oil on canvas, 89 x 75 inches