

BUTLER ■ GALLERY

Sous le Soleil du Nord

BLAISE DRUMMOND

June 24th – July 30th, 2006

The Butler Gallery is delighted to present *Sous le Soleil du Nord*, selected works from 1998-2006 by Blaise Drummond from his recent solo exhibition at Musée de L'Abbaye Sainte-Croix, France.

Drummonds refined paintings celebrate his great love of the natural world and its relationship to modern culture. His work attempts to excavate hope of an abiding natural world, amidst the debris of civilizations relentless progress. Drummond injects the empty canvas with elements of landscape and modernist architecture where they act as a physical manifestation of where we stand in relation to everything else. He employs distinctive elements in his paintings such as the use of carefully created dripping, both copied and real, collage and flat colour. These paintings transport the viewer to contemplative isolated places of beauty. Distinguished little birds are often in residence while the human form is only occasionally sighted.

This recent series of works is concerned more with an attempt to excavate something of value and hope, perhaps from a way of thinking that we have come to largely reject as hopelessly flawed. Maybe there is a nostalgia for an attitude that spurned nostalgia. There is certainly some nostalgia for a time of certainties, even if they proved ultimately unreliable. The paintings celebrate a certain kind of beauty and, as paintings, they do not let in the rain or cost the world to heat. They posit some notion of nature abiding and of an equilibrium between the villa and the world that contains it. Of course, there is always some sense of pathos and of the opposite being expressed at the same time. Everything is qualified, often by distancing devices within the paintings: blue

skies that on closer examination turn out to consist of graph paper, apparently fluid drips and splashes that turn out to be copied and repeated from elsewhere in the paintings, images of verdant forests culled from kitchen veneer packaging etc.¹

Blaise Drummond was born in Liverpool but lives in Co. Longford, Ireland. He received his BA from the National College of Art in Design, Dublin and his MA from the Chelsea College of Art, London. Drummond has had solo exhibitions with Aliceday (Brussels), Galerie Loevenbruck (Paris), Blancpainstepczynski (Geneva), Andrew Mummery Gallery (London), Rubicon Gallery (Dublin), the Castlefield Gallery (Manchester) and the Stedelijk Museum (Belgium).

Mr. Drummond is represented by the Rubicon Gallery, Dublin, by Galerie Loevenbruck in Paris, and by Aliceday, in Brussels. This exhibition is accompanied by a 72 page publication 'Cahiers de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix, Les Sables d'Olonne, No. 106', published by the Musée de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix.

ADMISSION FREE

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¹ Blaise Drummond (from a conversation with Joseph R. Wolin included in the catalogue Cahiers de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix, Les Sables d'Olonne, °106)