

ZULEIKA GALLERY

25 August 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Rachel Gracey: River Notes

Exhibition at Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock from 3 September – 10 October 2022



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Zuleika Gallery is delighted to announce the exhibition of River Notes by Rachel Gracey which will take place from 3 September – 10 October in the Woodstock Gallery. The exhibition is a quartet of prints inspired by the River Thames at Port Meadow in Oxford, the the River Cherwell in North Oxford, the River Helford in Cornwall, and the River Stour in Dorset. Rachel Gracey takes the title for her latest exhibition from what she calls ‘a quite extraordinary, quirky book’ that was first published in 1979 called *River Notes: The Dance of Herons*, by the American author Barry Lopez.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full catalogue of work with introduction by Oxford based author and curator, David Boyd Haycock (DBH). Of the Port Meadow series, created during lockdown, he comments how the artist saw how important water suddenly was for so many people – ‘as a place of sanctuary, release, freedom’. In contrast, the work based on the River Helford in Cornwall, reflect a very different sort of river, one that is dramatic and powerful, ‘they sing with a different, wilder sort of rhythm’. The Cherwell is the river closest to the artist’s home in North Oxford, and its neighbouring ponds, inspired the gentler third set. ‘The Cherwell series have an extraordinary vibrancy and joy to them’ (DBH). The artists comments on the Cherwell series how ‘the river has been so full of surprises ...’.

The final set in the exhibition are based upon a brief visit to the River Stour in Dorset earlier this year and are the most deeply personal. Gracey has bound some into a little book she titles ‘Rubato Flow.’ Using just black and white on coloured paper, they are a meditation on the recent death of her father, conveying how, even in the latter stages of his life, he expressed a joy and freedom in living – a desire always to seize life. Though sad and poignant, this final set is, nonetheless, meditative and beautiful.

ENDS

Venue

Zuleika Gallery, 6 Park Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire. OX20 1SP

Opening Hours

Monday, Wednesday – Saturday 10- 5

Press Contact

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Image 1: **Rachel Gracey R.E.** b. 1968, *Following Marston Brook (Cherwell)*, 2022, Lithograph, 104 x 76 cm, Edition of 7

Image 2: **Rachel Gracey R.E.** b. 1968, *Reflecting Colour (Helford 1)*, 2022, lithograph, 30 x 46 cm, Edition of 10

About Rachel Gracey R.E.

Rachel Gracey R. E. (b. 1968) is an Oxford based artist inspired by nature. A contemporary printmaker, this exhibition displays her latest lithographs. Gracey studied fine art at Bristol and specialises in printmaking. She gained an MA in Printmaking at Wimbledon School of Art where her lithographs were awarded the Michael Putnam Prize. Her work is in collections at the British Museum, The Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge, the Ashmolean Museum Oxford, the Guanlan Printmaking Museum and the Collection of Her Majesty the Queen. In March 2019 she was elected an RE by the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers.

About David Boyd Haycock

Dr David Boyd Haycock is a freelance art historian, author, curator and lecturer. He read Modern History at St John's College, Oxford, and has an MA in Art History from the University of Sussex and a PhD in History from the University of London. His books have included *Paul Nash* (2001) and *A Crisis of Brilliance: Five Young British Artists and the Great War* (2009); he is currently writing a new biography of the bohemian Welsh artist Augustus John and his young contemporaries (forthcoming, 2019). He lives in Oxford with his wife and two children.

About Zuleika Gallery

Zuleika Gallery's focus is on Modern British and emerging contemporary art. The gallery was founded in 2015 and held premises in St James's London since 2016 before moving to Cromwell Place in 2022. In 2020, the gallery opened premises in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, now the gallery headquarters, with a regular exhibition programme. Zuleika offer bespoke art advisory services for private or corporate collectors, using our extensive experience in the art market. We enjoy placing art in the right context, whether public or private, and helping collectors making considered choices - balancing pure visual joy with stimulating ideas, while also inspiring change through art. The gallery is committed to showing art that inspires, and to making art accessible without compromise to quality, working with both the entry level collector and the connoisseur.