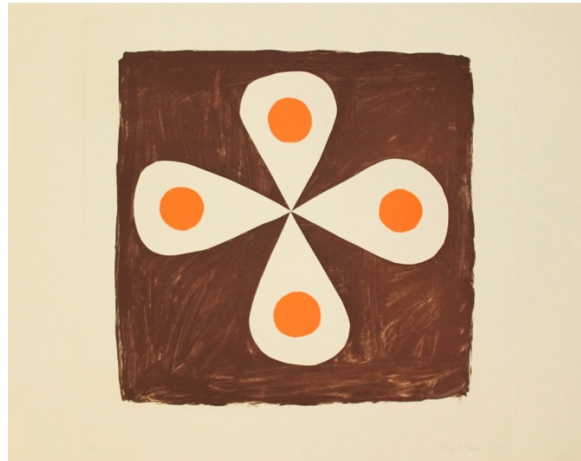


PRESS RELEASE

Breon O'Casey: A Bird's Eye View
19 October – 18 November 2023
Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock



“Breon O’Casey is a man for all seasons. He thinks and feels with his hands and moves with apparent ease from two-dimensional to three-dimensional activities, from one medium to another, without losing the artistic integrity of his intent.” Sir Peter Murray - Former Director of Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Zuleika Gallery is delighted to be exhibiting paintings, sculpture, prints and jewellery by Breon O’Casey (1928-2011) in its Woodstock Gallery 19 October – 14 November 2023. This exhibition, held in association with the artist's estate and its representative, Pangolin, will celebrate the bold design, vivid use of colour, simplicity of form and versatility of this truly multi-disciplinary artist.

Drawing on multiple influences from antiquity to Modernism, primitive and non-western art, O’Casey is celebrated for his creative exploration of two and three dimensional mediums and the development of a rich personal style with its unique visual language that oscillated between the figurative and the abstract. When asked about objects that captivated him, O’Casey said it was ‘not the wood, not the tree, but the leaf; not the distant view, but the hedge; not the mountain, but the stone’. His work is founded on a series of repetitive, often geometric motifs (often arranged in rows of three, a number he found intriguing and magical – a shorthand for infinity) which he would return to throughout his career; from simple, bold images of birds and hills reminiscent of Georges Braque and Henri Matisse, to his use of colourful triangles, spirals and polka dots in constructing landscapes rich in poetry and emotion. It was the 1945 exhibition of Paintings of Picasso and Matisse held at the V & A Museum, London organised by L’Association Française d’Action Artistique and The British Council which O’Casey described as ‘one of the epiphanies of his life’.. ‘God blimey’, I thought..this really is it.This is the cat’s whiskers alright. And that left an enormous impression on me that show.”

"As an artist's estate, our primary focus is preserving the artistic legacy of Breon O'Casey and ensuring that his art and his place in the story of St Ives where he lived from 1959 until 1975, remains relevant to today's art historians and collectors. We are thrilled that Zuleika Gallery will be shining a spotlight on Breon O'Casey's paintings, prints, sculptures and jewellery this Autumn".

Lizzie Collins, Director of Zuleika Gallery said: *"Featuring works from private collections alongside loans from the artist's estate, this selling exhibition will showcase and celebrate Breon O'Casey as an artist and craftsman and we are excited to have this opportunity to introduce his work to an Oxfordshire audience."*

"The origins of art are the plumage of a bird" Breon O'Casey

-ENDS -

Illustrated:

Breon O'Casey 1928-2011, *Red Bird*, 2006, acrylic on paper, 27 x 37 cm

Breon O'Casey 1928-2011, *Flower with Orange Dots*, 2001, etching with aquatint 60.5 x 76 cm, Edition of 20

Please note that Pangolin Gallery's exhibition – Breon O'Casey: Prints will open on 14 November-22 December 2023 at Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG. Enquiries: Polly Bielecka :020 7520 1480

About Breon O'Casey:

Born in London in 1928 to celebrated Irish playwright Sean O'Casey (1880-1964) and actress/author Eileen Carey (1900-1995), O'Casey was educated at Dartington Hall Totnes, Devon and went on to study art at the Anglo-French Art Centre in St John's Wood and briefly attended St Martin's School of Art where he was tutored by Anthony Caro (1924-2013) and Elisabeth Frink (1930-1993). Inspired by a film about the Cornish artist Alfred Wallis (1855-1942), the thirty one year old O'Casey moved to St Ives in 1959, where his peers included Terry Frost, Patrick Heron, Peter Lanyon, Tony O'Malley William Scott and John Wells. He found employment as a studio assistant to the celebrated sculptors Denis Mitchell (1912-1993) and Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975), both of whom were to have a significant influence on the development of his own sculptural practice which he began in the 1990s initially in metal and then bronze whilst suffering from muscular dystrophy.

O'Casey's work is included in numerous private and public collections internationally, including Arts Council, Dartington Hall, Farmleigh House, Ireland, Kettle's Yard, Leeds Museum and Art Gallery, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Pforzheim Museum, Germany, Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery, Tate, The Soho Hotel, Trinity College Dublin and Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

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 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. Using our extensive experience in the art market, we offer bespoke art advisory services for private or corporate collectors through Atelier Zuleika, our art consultancy arm. 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. Zuleika Gallery is a member of the Gallery Climate Coalition and is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving sustainably and gives artists a platform to explore the existential threat facing our planet.

Venue

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

Opening Hours

10 – 5pm Wednesday - Saturday

By appointment

Sunday – Tuesday – please contact +44(0)7719 060962.

Press Contact

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