

Graeme Hughes The Topiarist's Collection

26th November– 2nd January 2008
Private View 25th November, 6-9pm
Wyer Gallery - 191 St John's Hill – London – SW11 1TH

Wyer Gallery is pleased to announce *The Topiarist's Collection*. Artist Graeme Hughes presents a powerful new series of paintings on silk and large-scale work on paper, which marks a significant development in his practice.

Involved in an ongoing land art project in the jungle of Central America, Hughes' environs, off and on, for the last few years has been peopled by deadly snakes, scorpions, spiders and the occasional drug trafficker. As such, he has become intrigued by situations that rouse our innermost fears and instincts. Making work in these scenarios, his ideas have likewise been concerned with extremities of his situation. However, a printmaker by training, Hughes' practice has for a long time been preoccupied with pushing the boundaries of his medium. In *The Topiarist's Collection*, Hughes stretches his practice one stage further and, by a process of stripping away, explores the space between the lucidity of the painted and drawn mark and the mechanised process of printmaking itself. Accustomed to using drawing and painting as a starting point for his work and intrigued by the textural possibilities of painting directly onto silk screens as primary supports in their own right, Hughes has applied Indian ink and charcoal directly onto screen print frames, in order to produce a sort of hybrid art object which blurs the line between process and finished state.

In addition to Hughes' exploration of mark making and process, and referring again to his Central American associations, his work encompasses the idea of exploration and colonisation alongside the 18th and 19th century peculiarly Western custom of collecting. Hughes' work is concerned with things that, as a result, have somehow become lost, forgotten or controlled. That very English past time of 'Topiary' becomes both a metaphor and reminder for all these things, which Hughes himself collects, records and takes on a journey through which they are worked, reworked, shifted around and juxtaposed. *The Topiarist's Collection* becomes a collage of all his collections.

Graeme Hughes

The Topiarist's Collection



1. Bones

2007

Charcoal on paper

220 x 200 cm

Wyer Gallery

191 St. John's Hill – London – SW11 1TH - +44 (0)20 7223 8433

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Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10-6; Saturdays 10-5 & other times by appointment.

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2.Home

2007

Mixed media on silk

105 x 90 cm

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3. Mist Over Lake Yeti

2007

Mixed media on silk

180 x 150 cm

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4.Untitled drawing

2006

40 x 30 cm

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5. Flayed Wagon

2007

Mixed media on silk

180 x 150 cm

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6. Broken Monuments

2007

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7. Totem

2007

Mixed media on silk

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8. Tango

2007

Mixed media on silk

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