

Press Release

Janis Hardiman: Paintings

With a selection of sculptures by **Alfred Hardiman** (1891-1949)

6 September – 4 October, 2019

Private View: 5 September Thursday 6-8 PM

[View Exhibition Catalogue on-line](#)

Art Space Gallery is delighted to present an exhibition of paintings by **Janis Hardiman** featuring sculptures made by her father **Alfred Hardiman RA** (1891-1949). This is the very first time the works of father and daughter, spanning about a century of art making, have been exhibited together.



Alfred Hardiman was a Royal Academician and a Rome Scholar in the 1920s like Charles Sargeant Jagger. He was the sculptor of several large-scale, outdoor sculptures including, 'Peace' and the Southwood Memorial at St James' Church, Piccadilly and the 'Monument of Earl Haig' (1937), near the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Janis Hardiman at sixteen was offered a scholarship to RADA and in 1956 received the Kendal Award. In the late 1950s, having discovered their still life studios, she studied at St. Martins, took the NDD in 1961, followed by two years at Camberwell School of Art. She was brought up in a household in which sculpture

was the dominant art and a number of his smaller works, notably his bust of Winifred Knights, later featured in her interior scenes and still lives.

For the most part, Hardiman paints outdoors and has been doing so in and around Hampstead Heath for the best part of forty years, moving back and forth between heath land, garden and allotment views. Her knowledge of the area is intimate and it's a place where she and her painting are most at home. The works she makes



there are made over long stretches of time so that the result is an amalgamation of images from different times. These then have to work together to make a coherent whole – strived for in the outdoors, not back in the studio – and this is one of the challenges of her working method.

Looking back and forth between her paintings and her father's sculpture we see that his was an art of beautifully stylised figuration, Art Deco in look: the busts and statuettes he made stood out and apart from their surroundings, poised and exemplary with striking outlines. Alfred Hardiman's sculpture, like his drawing, is elegantly certain and determined.



Janis Hardiman's sensibility leans in the opposite direction, with an art that is all about the unity of parts, rather than discrete and specific objects. It is about relationships, context and all togetherness; about closeness and integration rather than separateness and difference. Her paintings always invite us to consider everything as a whole and in relation. When the forms do become clear they do so within the shared, levelling space of the picture, rather standing apart. In keeping with this, her paintings are large and square,

affording generous views onto the landscape. Curiously these relational interests are played out in an unpeopled natural world. Bodies might be suggested from time to time through an empty bench or chair, but on the whole she deals with the holistic life of the non-human natural world.

Janis Hardiman (b. 1938) received scholarship to RADA (1954) prior to studying at St Martins (1959-61) followed by Camberwell School of Art (1962-64). She lives and works in London.

To mark the occasion a 24 page catalogue with 16 colour plates and an essay by Dr Jon Wood has been published. Copies are available from the gallery.

Images:

Head of *Peace* by Alfred Hardiman

Sweetcorn and Gazebo, 2017 oil on board, 108 × 119.5 cm

Interior with Head of Peace, 1999 oil on board, 119 × 124.5 cm