

PRESS RELEASE

ANTHONY FARRELL – *THE LONDON W11 SERIES*

Paintings and drawings

27 March – 24 April, 2020 -- Private View 26 March Thursday 6-8 pm

[View catalogue on line](#) - [View the video](#)

Rain. W11, acrylic/board, 31 x 38cm

Anthony Farrell paints large crowded figure composition that bustle with a cast of characters taken directly from his observations of human behaviour and activity in public places. In this, his fourth solo exhibition at Art Space Gallery, we are pleased to announce *The London W11 Series*: an exhibition of paintings and drawings of the five-way intersection of Westbourne Grove, Chepstow Place, Chepstow Road and Pembridge Villas in London W11.

Having lived and worked for most of his life in Leigh-on-Sea on the Essex coast of the Thames Estuary, Farrell decided in 2017 to take a sabbatical in order to paint in London. He found temporary accommodation and a studio in Notting Hill Gate, decided on a site to study and then spent three years recording and painting the daily goings on from a vantage point on the corner of Westbourne Grove and Chepstow Road. Ten major canvases along with small studies and drawings make up the series that is his record of the changing seasons and the vast variety of human activity and behaviour.

Every morning he'd take an outside seat at a café on the street corner and make surreptitious drawings under cover of a newspaper; quick annotated pencil sketches of what was going on. What

people wore and how they moved and reacted to each other. Any quirky behaviour, the weather, the changing seasons, street furniture, pigeons, wind-blown litter, anything that caught his eye. Back in his studio he would decide on whether or not there was anything in that day's drawing to help the picture that he had on the go along. . Sometimes there was, but often not, and the drawing would be added to those festooned around the studio for future reference; an ever-growing library of invaluable visual ideas for future use.

Working only on one large painting at a time, and each painting taking two to three months to complete, it would be worked and reworked continuously from start to finish. Each day figures would be added or removed, their position or size changed, the light altered or the foliage of the trees adjusted, furniture added. And slowly, after repeated adjustments the spaces would become real and the architecture and the characters, large and tiny, would find their rightful place in a painting bursting with luxuriant energy and colour; complex and full of surprises.

In his catalogue essay for the exhibition Timothy Hyman writes:

...in the West Eleven series we might pick up affinities to early Balthus for example, or Bonnard; to Poussin or to Tintoretto. Like any true Painter of Modern Life Farrell brings to bear all the resources of a lifetime upon a subject that could so easily have been banal but has turned out to be, as he says 'limitlessly rich'.



Winter Morning, Crossroads, 2018, acrylic/canvas, 122 x 122cm

Anthony Farrell (b. 1945) trained at Camberwell School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools (1963-68). He has exhibited regularly in private and public galleries including the Serpentine and Hayward and has work in private and public collections including Art Council of Great Britain, Manchester City Art Gallery and the Minories, Colchester.

A 30 page catalogue with 14 plates and text by Timothy Hyman is available. View on line at: www.artspacegallery.co.uk

Gallery hours 11am to 6pm, Tuesday - Saturday

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