

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Derek Hyatt*Meetings on the Moor**The Bishopdale Paintings***29 June – 27 July 2012**

Owls over Reva Cross, 1997, oil on board, 122 x 122cm

From a stone barn high on the 1,000 ft contour overlooking Bishopdale in Yorkshire, Derek Hyatt spent 30 years observing, drawing and painting the terrain and unlocking the hidden imagery in a series of paintings, most of them previously unseen, that are the core of this exhibition.

'I don't have a style I have a subject' states Hyatt. Hills and valleys open out onto changing patterns of colour, tone and light; the seasons bring their own changes, but Hyatt's involvement with the landscape is total; years of observation have given him a keen eye not only for the obvious, but for what to the unobservant remains elusive. The land has been farmed for centuries and ancient field patterns, track-ways, lost villages and ceremonial sites can all be located through changes in texture and linear pattern.

Hyatt's ability to 'read the landscape' and decode it is further enhanced by his study of anthropology, archeology and mythology, all of which inform his art as much as observation of the terrain and its wildlife. Neolithic rock carvings reveal a pagan symbolism of spirals, cup and ring markings and deities that are all integrated into a visual language that goes beyond the surface to see what nobody else has seen and connect us directly with the *spirit of the place*. They are a journey into the imagination through the English landscape.

Derek Hyatt studied at the Royal College of Art (1954- 58) winning numerous prizes and editing ARK (the Journal of the Royal College of Arts). He has exhibited regularly throughout his career, was a regular contributor in Peter Fuller's *Modern Painters* and was elected Companion of the Guild of St George (1990). His work is held in major public and private collections worldwide including Yale University, Harvard University and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. This will be his second solo exhibition at Art Space Gallery.

A catalogue is available with 22 full colour plates and essay by Andrew Lambirth.

An extended version with 14 additional images can be viewed at : www.artspacegallery.co.uk