

PRESS RELEASE

GEORGE ROWLETT*East Kent and the River Thames* - Paintings 2013

18 October - 15 November 2013

[View the catalogue on-line](#)

Canaletto's View, Greenwich Naval Hospital from Island Gardens, oil on board, 61 x 122cm

George Rowlett delights in the properties of thick paint and has developed his own very personal visual language to observe and to record the places where he lives and works: the coastal area of East Kent, the garden outside of his Walmer studio and London's River Thames. Included in this exhibition is a magnificent series based on Christopher Wren's baroque masterpiece, the Royal Naval Hospital that commands the waterfront at Greenwich.

Working directly from the subject, often with extraordinary speed, the surface of his boards are built up to a rich impasto where colour and surface combine to convey atmosphere, light and mass; a celebration of sustained spontaneity that balance the weight and density of paint with equal measures of refinement and delicacy to capture fleeting moments in an ever changing subject. In the exhibition catalogue **Mel Gooding** writes,

The titles are matter of fact, precise, descriptive, scrupulous matters of record. They are as informative as Chardin's, or as those of Turner and Constable; they frequently feature meteorological annotations like those of Monet or Pissarro: 'Cliffs at Hope Point, Early Morning Mist and Sun' for example, and 'Canaletto's View, Grey Day, South Westerly Blowing the Clouds'. Here are objects, here are the components of a moment's point of view of a particular place in a particular moment of light and weather, and here is the time and tide. Those painters have something more in common than a penchant for nonsense descriptive titles. They share with each other, and with Rowlett, who belongs squarely in their line, a love of nature as given, a sense of the marvellous in the fleeting moment as each inexorably succeeds the other... and a manifest commitment in their work to the truth of the everyday visible.

Born in Troon on the West Coast of Scotland in 1941, George Rowlett attended Camberwell School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools. This exhibition will mark the 20th anniversary of a long and fruitful association with Art Space Gallery.

A hard-copy of the 30 page catalogue with 22 full colour plates and an essay by Mel Gooding is available from the Gallery.