

Frieze New York

May 3rd – 6th, 2018

OFFER WATERMAN

Stand F4



Erection (C.1958-60) oil on board. 48 1/8 x 36 5/8

For their first participation at Frieze New York, Offer Waterman is delighted to announce their presentation of an exceptional selection of rare and early works on paper by Britain's greatest living artist, David Hockney. The gallery has established a significant international reputation for expertise in works by the artist, assisting the recent retrospective at the Tate and opening their new Mayfair showroom in 2015 with a critically acclaimed exhibition of early works on paper by Hockney.

The selection includes experimental works from his early career whilst still a student at the R.C.A, a period which also saw him explore his sexuality for the first time – a particularly brave act during a time when open homosexuality was still a criminal offence in the UK. This includes the startlingly powerful *Erection* (1959), complete with phallic symbols and a bravura interpretation of the Abstract Expressionist style which was then prevalent at the R.C.A.

Cha Cha Cha (1961) was inspired by an unrequited crush on a fellow R.C.A student, Peter Crush, whom Hockney has immortalised with energetic economy and the coded inscription, 'I will love you at 4.15 on Tuesday'. Drawing has an immediacy particularly suited to recording personal experience and Hockney was later to recall; *'The Ch-Cha was a real event. A very beautiful boy who was a student at the royal College of art danced the cha-cha especially for me because, although I didn't know him very well, he knew I thought he was stunningly beautiful.'*

David Hockney, *Hockney's Pictures*, Thames and Hudson, 2004.

Fleeting, intimate moments are also captured in *Artist's Father* (1973), a masterful line drawing of an immaculately dressed Kenneth Hockney which recalls the major portrait in oils of both his parents now residing in The Tate. *George, Blanche, Celia, Albert and Percy, London, January* (1983) evokes memories of perhaps the most celebrated portrait of all, *'Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy'*, although in this fresh and innovative photographic collage, only Celia and Percy the cat remain, this time joined by the Clarks' 2 sons and their new cat, Blanche.

Windows and the act of viewing are motifs frequently explored by Hockney and demonstrated here in *My Room, My Window* (1973) and *View of Lake Palace Hotel, Udaipur* (1977), although technique and atmosphere are very different. In the earlier drawing, Hockney uses coloured pencil to achieve a subtle and sophisticated tonality and contrast between soft curtain and hard window frame, while in *'Udaipur'*, the frame appears to disintegrate under his scrutiny, rendering the view - complete with artist's paraphernalia in the foreground - in a series of fragmented pencil marks.

Both window views also hint at Hockney's passion for travel, picturing scenes in Paris and Udaipur respectively; the importance of this for a working-class boy raised during the war years in Yorkshire

cannot be overstated. There is an evident and abiding joy in the exotic which never leaves Hockney's work and is evident from his earliest foreign adventures, beginning in 1963 when Hockney, as a new RCA graduate, went to Egypt on a trip sponsored by David Sylvester and The Sunday Times. ***Coloured Head with Straight Black Hair, Egypt*** (1963) is one of 40 or so drawings produced there and demonstrates both the artist's enthusiastic immersion into the astonishing new environment he encountered there and his virtuosic attempts to make that culture truly his own by the act of drawing.

Hockney later recalled "*...I drew everywhere and everything, the Pyramids, modern Egypt, it was terrific. I was very turned on by the place, and on your own you do a lot more work. I carried all my drawings everywhere and a lot of equipment, and I would get up very early in the morning...It was a great adventure.*"

David Hockney, quoted in C.S. Sykes, *The Biography, Hockney: A Rake's Progress, Volume 1, 1937-1975*, London 2011

FOR PRESS ENQUIRIES

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Offer Waterman opened his first gallery in Chelsea, London in 1996. Now based in a five-storey Georgian building in the heart of Mayfair, the gallery has developed an international reputation for its exceptional 20th Century British art. The gallery's exhibition programme this year will feature both contemporary artists and historical exhibitions. Recent projects have included Frank Auerbach, *Early Works* in 2012, *David Hockney, Early Drawings* in 2015 and *Robert Rauschenberg, Transfer Drawings* in 2016. Offer Waterman is a benefactor of numerous museums and arts organisations, most recently supporting the major David Hockney retrospective at Tate Britain.

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