

Press Release

hilton miller p a i n t i n g

6-19th May 2011

Hilton Miller began painting in the early 1970's, having left a promising academic career as a respected mathematician in Cambridge and Birkbeck College, London. He followed a modest, even hermetic path as an artist, approaching art in the same way he had earlier approached mathematics, in search of true 'pearls' and painted solutions. He supported his passion for painting working part-time as a consultant statistician for the insurance industry, painting daily for the last forty years with an absolute dedication. In this time he had little contact with the art world and chose never to exhibit, wary of the disturbance to the crucible of discovery and creativity in the studio.

This exhibition is organised and curated by his son, the Irish based painter Nick Miller and is Hilton Miller's first public show, marking his eightieth year. A resident of Wood Lane in Highgate since 1964, the focus of this show are his two principal subjects; landscapes from both the south of France and the north west of Ireland. While on one level these may at first glance appear conventional, they resolve over time and viewing as deeply considered internal abstract dialogues with colour, hung on the armature of a landscape. His studio is littered with complex colour wheels and charts of his own devising clearly linking his approach to painting back to his mathematical exploration and foundation.

The show is accompanied by an illustrated publication with an introduction by Nick Miller and an essay on Hilton Miller's work by Aidan Dunne, the visual arts critic for the Irish Times in Dublin. Aidan Dunne says of Miller's work:

"Hilton Miller's paintings are without doubt situated in this historical and temperamental terrain, indeed following directly on from a lineage that extends from Poussin to Corot to Cézanne. His work can be fruitfully seen, appreciated and understood in the light of their concerns and achievements. As with Poussin and Cézanne, his paintings are constructed like intricate mechanisms, with every component part contributing to a carefully calculated overall effect. More, as with their work, everything represented in his images, from solid stone to the air itself, is invested with an identical density, lending an extraordinary evenness of temper to the paintings' surfaces and compositional rhythms, and an abiding serenity of mood..... Each work revolves around the calculated interplay and balance of colour values, from warm to cool. He did a great deal of theoretical work exploring and calculating the relative temperature of oil colours, devising and employing diagrammatic colour wheels of daunting complexity."

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Highgate Gallery

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Open: Tues-Friday 1-5pm
Saturday 11am-4pm
Sunday 11am-5pm
Closed: Monday