Paul Winstanley

Red T Shirt Grey

31 May - 30 June 2012

Pippy Houldsworth Gallery is delighted to present a project of new work by Paul Winstanley from 31 May to 30 June 2012. Red T Shirt Grey brings together a new group of paintings that deal with the figure across sites of London urban parkland, from Canary Wharf to Crystal Palace. Winstanley uses the language of photography as source material and gesture, staging, re-staging and manipulating the image to make a highly fabricated series of paintings that raise ideas around authenticity and authorship.

Winstanley's paintings begin with a series of negotiated encounters. For Red T Shirt Grey, he finds his subjects on location in sites of transience and brief periods of time out; these individuals often becoming willing participants in his work. Frequently asking his subjects to re-enact their previous movements, his images capture a slightly altered or self-conscious version of their natural routines. In Jesus is Coming, Winstanley goes a step further with his intervention or re-staging, collaging together multiple images of his encounter in which the cyclist asked him 'Do you know that Jesus is Coming?'

Winstanley's new paintings play on pseudo-religious notions in terms of faith and truth in the art-making process, and a suspension of disbelief in the viewing process. In what the artist refers to as 'heavily made' paintings, there is a sense that he goes back and forth between photographic and painterly tropes. At first glance his paintings appear to demystify or mimic the photographic image, and upon closer inspection, reading between each painting, this new series of works simultaneously re-mystifies and 'embodies' a new character. Part of their embodiment lies in the accumulative sense of displacement and emerging awareness of a compositional and philosophical relationship between figure and landscape. We are aware of the repetition of an almost stage-lit, subtly hovering figure, and of the frequent mirroring and projection of our own position in that of the subject. Importantly, the paintings also develop a certain aura or uniqueness through a relationship pinpointed by Winstanley's painting Man in a Red T Shirt (Grey), a grey version of Man in a Red T Shirt that casts doubt, challenges and enables us to re-assess the authorship and the objecthood of each of his paintings.

Paul Winstanley is also showing as part of Lifelike, a touring exhibition at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; New Orleans Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; and The Blankton Museum of Art, Austin, with Vija Celmins, Fischli & Weiss and Ai Weiwei. Recent solo exhibitions include Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; 1301PE, Los Angeles; Vera Munro, Hamburg; Kerlin Gallery, Dublin; and Artspace, Auckland. Group exhibitions include Galeria Pilar Serra, Madrid; Kunsthalle, Hamburg; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Renaissance Society, Chicago; and Tate Gallery, London. His work is represented in collections including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Tate Gallery, London; British Council; Arts Council of Great Britain and Burger Collection, Berlin.

Paul Winstanley will be in conversation with David Campany on Wednesday 20 June 2012 at 7pm. To book a seat, or for further information on the exhibition, please contact Pippy Houldsworth Gallery on +44 (0)20 7734 7760 or gallery@houldsworth.co.uk.

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-4.

ALSO SHOWING: AI WEIWEI, A Living Sculpture, in The Box, until 30 June 2012