



Bracknell Gallery

Flaw: the new work by Derek Hill

27 November 2010 - 23 January 2011

There is an underlying science behind the work of Derek Hill, in both the means and the ends of his work: his work is as much about the process as the finished product.

Derek Hill uses an array of media, including industrial and solvent paints, as well as traditional oil paint. The process of his paintings is something of a scientific experiment. The artist investigates the way in which the different media react with each other and the way they change as they dry. With this in mind, Hill explores something of a scientific evolution, both in the process of the painting (the evolving and changeability of the materials he uses) mirroring the evolution of life itself. Despite the toxic and industrial paint media and some of the artificial and industrial processes he undertakes, the artworks come to represent the antithesis of these - resulting in pieces that are alive and organic.

The act of producing the paintings is as alive and organic as the paintings themselves, Hill's large canvases are laid on the floor, undergoing a range of processes that sometimes take up to six months to complete, applying - and re-applying layers and layers of paint. He tends to work on up to twelve paintings at a time, which creates a force and momentum to the artistic process.

John Millard, former Executive Director of Collections at National Museums, Liverpool, has described Hill as an alchemist. According to Millard:

Derek Hill works like an alchemist. His studio is a magical place where he conducts his experiments. It is a cavernous roof space with alcoves and wooden stairways on every side. Overhead is a tangle of wooden beams with an occasional fluttering pigeon, and in the middle is a great irregular space. Paintings are everywhere. They lean in stacks in all directions. They are slotted in rows into every alcove. They cover the floor on sheets of polythene. On the narrow strips between them are pots and tools, and not much room to walk.

Derek's alchemy consists in making combinations from his remarkable storehouse of materials, and in deploying his immense compendium of techniques. His images are drawn, poured, and painted in a meticulous sequence of actions balancing chance and control. Some of his canvases are like microscopic biological processes expanded to a massive size. Others appear to be vast geographical processes made to happen in a few square feet. They are lucid and mysterious, generous and intense, majestic and, literally, wonderful.

Derek Hill is a graduate of the Royal College of Art and has exhibited across the UK and internationally as well as lecturing across the UK and co-curating exhibitions. He has been recognised for national awards including the telegraph ASBA. Hill is co-founder and lead artist of the Art Studio in Sunderland.

The exhibition is curated by Dr Outi Remes, Head of Exhibitions at South Hill Park.

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For sales enquiries contact the Gallery Desk and quote the code of the artwork.