

BEN BROWN

- *Press Release for immediate release* -

Clare Shenstone – The Speaker and I

25 April – 25 May 2007

Preview 26 April 2007 6 – 8 pm

Ben Brown Fine Arts is pleased to present an inspiring collection of work from the critically acclaimed Clare Shenstone. This exclusive show is a combination of works from the famous series of the Speaker and self-portraits that demonstrate a unique insight into the relationship between painting and capturing human essence in portraiture.

Intrigued by the Speaker, she began a series of paintings that would continue for thirty years. She had a great love of theatre and found it here, you can sense every move and noise that contributed to the intense atmosphere that spurred her creativity. She homed in on the speaker, his intensity and unpredictability with a mixture of extreme aggression and vulnerability. The rawness of colour with precision in technique depicts an exciting omnipresence where the paradoxical and complex nature of humanity is revealed.

Shenstone possesses a remarkable talent of speaking to her viewers, using the human form to represent a 'bridge' between the emotions we experience as part of being alive and art being representative of humanity. Shenstone's work portrays a sensitivity where the finished result is that she paints emotions not solely people, getting beneath "the mask" of the human face, painting the human form as something transcending a solid object. She approaches her work to create a situation where she can keep "extending outwards", - pushing creativity somewhere else, and pushing inventive powers to the extreme. Driven by what it means to create images, equating it to the meaning of being alive, she claims, "The more you push the further it can go – that's why painting isn't dead".

Since graduating from the Royal College of Art in 1979, her portraits have become renown internationally, particularly those of Francis Bacon, her mentor and subject for many years. She has exhibited in major British galleries including the Whitechapel gallery and Mall Galleries. Shenstone's portraits exist in some of today's most prominent collections including The National Portrait Gallery and The Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury collection; she lives and works in London.

Her philosophy in painting is that of fascination of the human spirit, she understands her subject to produce astonishing results.

Catalogue available.

For further details contact:

Ben Brown Fine Arts at 020 7734 8888 or info@benbrownfinearts.com