

# BEN BROWN

- *Press Release for immediate release* -

9 October – 22 December 2006

Private View: 9 October 6 - 8:30 pm

Tony Bevan – *Paintings*

Ben Brown Fine Arts is delighted to announce an exhibition of Tony Bevan. His new work has not been shown in London for more than three years. Bevan has trained at Slade School of Art and held over 40 solo exhibitions within Europe and America since his first solo exhibit in 1976. His paintings and drawings are created with high intensity and are highly expressive. Bevan's works are immensely tactile thanks to the fact that he is applying charcoal – made from different woods - and using his own pure pigments which are often pressed into his paintings. Many of his works are produced while lying flat on the ground allowing Bevan to force the pigment into the pores of the canvas or paper.

In the exhibition will be several *Head* paintings shown. Being an artist working alone in his studio, Bevan has repeatedly chosen to paint himself over the years; so to speak Bevan is his most faithful subject. Over those years these portraits have gone through tremendous transformation where his head is often only depicted with the help of a few lines. Not only does Bevan reduce his head to a couple of intense strokes, but he also chooses to paint his head from the most unusual and unexpected angles. There are some images where the viewer is forced to look up his overextended nostrils, as the canvasses are often larger than life. In these portraits, which are comparable to Francis Bacon's distorted paintings, mixed emotions such as anger, frustration and pain come through.

Apart from the recurring subject *Head*, Bevan, who shows a fascination for landscapes and the horizon, created a series of paintings called *Table Top*. There will be several samples of *Table Top* paintings in this show. These most stunning and delicate looking paintings reflect the combination of horizon and landscape where Bevan often draws attention to the horizon by painting the area surrounding the table in a dark and thick colors delineating the sky. On top of these table in each case sits a small village precariously balancing itself at the edge of the table. These villages bring Bevan's works close to abstraction.

Architecture plays also an important role in Bevan's paintings. In the past years he has been focusing on interiors of buildings, producing mono-chromatic, stark canvases emphasizing the structural elements of the interior focusing on the repetition of these structural elements. These *Corridors* paintings have the air of an unglamorous site depicting unfinished buildings. However, these crisscrossing lines help to emanate high energy from his canvasses.

Tony Bevan's work has been exhibited at IVAM (2006) and The Israel Museum (2003); it will be shown at the Turnpike Gallery in Leigh (7 October – 25 November 2006).

On 26 October 2006 Tony Bevan will have a conversation with Richard Cork at the Whitechapel (7pm).

Catalogue available upon request

For further details contact: Ben Brown Fine Arts @ 020 7734 8888 or [info@benbrownfinearts.com](mailto:info@benbrownfinearts.com)