



James Judge – New Paintings **7th – 20th September 2010**

James Judge is an artist inspired by his surroundings. His recent work is based around the Rainham Marshes that border the River Thames on the North side. A contradictory place, these medieval marshes are one of very few ancient landscapes remaining in London, and are now preserved as a nature reserve, yet they also contain disused structures remaining from former industry in the area.

The artist was born in Deptford, on the River Thames, and has always painted around the river. He sees it as the heart of London, explaining 'everything comes from the river'. Now living in Leigh on Sea, at the mouth of the Thames, it is a landscape with which he has a deep affinity. The cumulative build up of layers of memory is very important to him, as his work is evocative rather than realist. The landscape gives his work a centring structure: a horizon, foreground, middle ground and sky, then Judge can focus on the feeling of a place at different times of day and in different light. Thinking about the landscape becomes as important to the artist as being in it.

The mix of oil, pencil, gouache, ink and acrylic on paper and canvas creates a surface that has a strong visual impact. Judge's compositions and colour palette show the legacy of American artists such as Richard Diebenkorn – particularly the aerial landscapes of his 'Ocean Park' series - and the abstract urban landscapes of Willem de Kooning. In his exploration of colour and light, we can also see influences as diverse as Mark Rothko and J.M.W Turner.

Born in 1958, James Judge studied at the Byam Shaw School of Art, London and won the Richard Ford Award from the Royal Academy of Arts for a travelling scholarship to the Prado, Madrid. He has exhibited and sold widely throughout the UK, Europe and the US.

Adam Gallery, 24 Cork Street, London W1S 3NJ, United Kingdom
For further enquiries, tel: 0207 439 6633 or e-mail: info@adamgallery.com.