



Marie-Claire Hamon
'Oasis'

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An exhibition of paintings by Marie-Claire Hamon

Saturday 28th March – Sunday 19th April 2009

Happy with the label of a 'romantic painter', in this series of new paintings Marie Claire Hamon challenges us with the notion of what a 'beautiful landscape' might be. Describing her employment of the genre as "a tool for making meaning" she takes inspiration from the evidence/effect of mans intervention with nature. From locations as diverse as the cool of the Swiss Mountains to the aridity of the Atacama Desert, Chile, water pipes snake across deserts, tankers cross oceans and strips of tarmac stretch as far as the eye can see. In her rich and varied deployment of language the world is revealed as is man's infinitely complex relationship to it.

Returning to Switzerland on a recent visit Hamon describes the disturbing retreat of glaciers she could touch as a child. Her paintings of the Mauvoisin Dam present a visceral account of the scale of engineering required to harness the huge volume of water descending from the mountains. Continuing the theme of energy procurement in 'Oasis', Hamon presents the distant spires of the Tamoil refinery glinting like some ancient citadel on the horizon, the succulent green leaves in the foreground suggestive of a fecundity not yet in submission.

'*The way of a dream*' depicts the main arterial highway running from southern to central America. Devoid of vehicles, the motorway takes on an almost anthropological quality. This high mark of modernity is softened by the dreamy mountains on the horizon and a feeling of future hopes and promises. Other images from Chile include some exquisite smaller paintings of water pipes dissecting the soft desert landscape. A different kind of artery and further evidence of Hamon's fascination with transportation and the infra-structures required to sustain human life.

Describing the landscapes that inspire her as "like huge installations", Hamon gives us an indication of her central motivation. Paintings are constructed in the service of exposing not only natural phenomena but the ongoing interference of man versus nature. Employing both the fluidity of the paint and a joy of flat colour, she celebrates the graphic elements in her landscapes with an equal reverence as, for example, the shifting tonal modulations of a rock face.

Fully embracing the spirit of the true romantic in her depiction of humanity set against the awesome scale of the natural world, her images have the effect of putting mankind in its place at a time when lack of consideration for the ecosystem may have apocalyptic consequences. Describing geography in political terms as opposed to wholly topographical or aesthetic, she nevertheless celebrates the beauty of the world – perhaps all the more so for underlining its fragility.

Cathy Watkins, February 2009



Cover: **Oasis** Oil on canvas 112 x 140 cm



The Way of a Dream *Oil on canvas* 125 x 140 cm



Reservoir *Oil on canvas* 125 x 125 cm



Sail on o Mighty Ship of State *Oil on canvas* 125 x 140 cm



Source *Oil on canvas* 90 x 75 cm



Presence *Oil on canvas* 90 x 75 cm



Water *Oil on canvas* 100 x 100 cm



Water Pipe *Oil on canvas* 90 x 90 cm



From the Glaciers to the Valleys *Oil on canvas* 90 x 75 cm



Supremacy *Oil on canvas* 90 x 90 cm



Airport Window *Oil on canvas* 40 x 50 cm



Desert Station *Oil on canvas* 40 x 50 cm



Desert Installation *Oil on canvas* 40 x 50 cm



Filling Station *Oil on canvas* 40 x 50 cm



Irrigation *Oil on canvas* 40 x 50 cm



Night Ride *Oil on canvas* 40 x 50 cm



Water Pipe 2 (Small) *Oil on canvas* 50 x 40 cm

Marie-Claire Hamon

Born in Belgium

1999 BA Hons. Fine Art, Falmouth College of Art
2003–06 Visiting Lecturer Cornwall College, Pool
2007 Elected a member of the Newlyn Society of Artists
2007 Visiting artist, Falmouth College of Art

Solo Exhibitions

2006/07 Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden
2005 Badcocks Gallery, Newlyn
2004 New Street Gallery, Plymouth
2003 Badcocks Gallery, Newlyn

Two Person Exhibitions

2008 Signal Gallery, Hoxton, London
Slader's Yard, Dorset
2007 Cadogan Gallery, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

2008 'A Long Haul', the Ramp, The Exchange, Penzance
The Drawing Show, The Exchange, Penzance
2007 jaggedart, London
2007/08 The Belgrave Gallery, St. Ives
Rainy Day Gallery, Penzance
Itree Gallery, Bridport
2005/06/07/08 Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden
2003/04/05/06 Cadogan Gallery, London
2001/02/03/04/05 Badcocks Gallery, Newlyn
2003 Hunting Art Prize, Royal College of Art
2002 Plymouth Art Gallery
2001 Lemon Street Gallery, Truro



Water Tower *Oil on canvas* 40 x 50 cm

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Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am – 5.30pm
Sunday 11.00am – 4.00pm


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