

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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ANTHONY WHISHAW R.A.  
*Woodland Encounters* - Paintings

6 May – 10 June 2016

PRIVATE VIEW 5 May Thursday 6-8

[View Exhibition Catalogue on-line](#)*Coppice, Early Spring Light*, 2000-2006, acrylic on board, 122 x 305 cm

Throughout the 90s **Anthony Whishaw's** powerful images made frequent and welcome appearances in one-man and mixed exhibitions at Art Space Gallery. Fifteen years later, and with the Gallery space now enlarged to show his large work, we are pleased to welcome his return with an exhibition timed to celebrate the publication of a major monograph on his work by the Royal Academy of Arts.

The exhibition focuses on **Whishaw's** treescapes and his birds in flight: the largest is 15 feet in length; the smallest a matter of inches. They are heavily worked, mostly in acrylic on canvas or paper, and often have ash, sand or earth in the paint with collage elements of rough pieces of wood or canvas and metallic mesh. They are imaginary settings with only a suggestion of a human presence and they combine reality, memory and imagination in ways that gives them the appearance of being real yet so tantalisingly hard to define.

It is the visual game playing that goes on that makes **Whishaw's** paintings unmistakable. He has a lasting fascination with visual language and no matter what the scale or subject he is invariably involved with different degrees of representation together with allusions and illusions that are constructed to tease our perceptions. They can be unsettling. They are paintings which on the face of it might suggest cheerful expanses of the natural world but do in fact convey a sense of unease. Unnaturally lit and dreamlike they are edgy pictures that can harbour darkness and an element of threat or uncertainty.

**Anthony Whishaw's** painting has been widely exhibited both in this country and abroad and he has received numerous prizes and awards. He has work in the permanent collections of the Tate Gallery and the Arts Council together with museums and public collections in the UK, America, Finland, Australia, Spain, France and Brazil. He was the subject of a John Schlesinger film for BBC TV's 'Monitor' and elected a **Royal Academician** in 1989.