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Press Release

Stanley Donwood: *Far Away is Close at Hand in Images of Elsewhere*

Friday 20th September – Saturday 19th October 2013



Private view: Thursday 19th September
6pm-9pm

Radiohead's in-house artist Stanley Donwood returns to The Outsiders London with a haunting and hugely appealing exhibition of artworks in September 2013.

Far Away is Close at Hand in Images of Elsewhere showcases Stanley's ambitious ink and pencil pieces featuring hidden country footpaths, Known as Holloways, and other arboreal scenes. These are featured in Stanley's hit book of the same name, published by Faber and Faber earlier this year. The large canvases to be shown alongside them formed the official artwork for Radiohead's latest LP, *The King of*

Limbs, named after an ancient oak tree in Savernake Forest, Wiltshire.

Holloway lanes are characterised by an over-arching avenue of fauna that creates a natural tunnel effect. Mysterious and melancholic, their botanical beauty inspires both awe and a liberating sense of feral mindfulness. Stanley's artworks depicting holloways on display will range from miniature woodcut prints and studies to large works on paper. The King of Limbs canvases were created using oils and spray paint.

"In the lead up to making these pieces I became fascinated with the idea of a cathedral of sound," says the artist, *"I was working with Radiohead on the record that was to become The King of Limbs, and my early hearings of the music seemed to suggest an overarching canopy of detail."*

The band's ambitious compositions triggered a synaesthetic vision in Stanley. *"I had a kind of memory that the fluted columns and ceiling tracery of medieval churches owed its inspiration to the northern forests of Europe; the tall tree trunks, the interlaced branches above, the majesty of the woods. I wanted to take this caged spirit of the trees back into the forests, where sounds were free and un-tethered by religion, where the spreading branches supported the sky, not the roof of a church. I began to paint trees, bright, coloured trees, through which dark mists could percolate."*

Around the same time Stanley began work on the Holloways book. His research even included sleeping overnight under some of the cabalistic canopies in south Dorset, UK. *"I began to draw the holloways from memory,"* he reports, *"any preparations would wreck the impression that time spent in these dark, damp places left."*

The resulting works form the exhibition: they are made all the more eerie by the fact the holloways pictured have now been cut down. This in turn reminded Stanley of a famous piece of graffiti daubed on the south wall encasing the tracks out of Paddington railway station. The lyric *"Far away is close at hand in images of*

elsewhere” originally appeared in 1979, but disappeared when the wall was mostly demolished in 1980 leaving only the word “where”. In 1999 it re-appeared, but new building in 2000 eliminated the slogan once again. It’s mostly taken from the poem A Song for Contrariety by Robert Graves, perhaps best known for his TV-adapted novel, I, Claudius. But the last four words are an improvised addition. “*There’s nothing left of it now – like the holloway it’s entirely disappeared,*” muses Stanley.

But his lucid impressions of the Holloways remain, and will enrapture visitors to this unique and poignant exhibition.

ENDS

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About the artist: Stanley Donwood

Stanley Donwood has worked as the artist for the acclaimed experimental rock band Radiohead since the group’s inception. He and frontman Thom Yorke met at Exeter University and the two are often thought to be one and the same, despite accepting a Grammy award together for the band’s packaging in 2002. Stanley is officially considered the sixth member of the group.

Nonetheless Stanley is highly active outside of Radiohead, producing official posters and media for the Glastonbury festival amongst many other commissions. He is an aficionado of printing techniques and avid self-publisher of his own artworks and short stories, leading to Faber’s publication of the book *Holloways* in 2013. The book received rave reviews in the British broadsheet newspapers and made The Sunday Times’ top ten bestseller’s list. Upcoming projects include new covers for anniversary reprints of JG Ballard’s novels. Stanley’s previous exhibitions include London Views at The Outsiders London and Lost Angeles in Subliminal Projects, LA. He lives and works in Oxfordshire, Great Britain.

The Outsiders Galleries, Newcastle and London

Re-launching the first ever Lazarides gallery spaces under a new heading in July 2010, The Outsiders sells affordable originals, prints, collectibles and books from the Lazarides stable of artists and more. Each of the galleries features project spaces showcasing works from new and emerging talents, as well as offering established Lazarides artists a space to present experimental shows. Space is also given over to an ambitious release schedule of editioned works.

These small run editions, hand finished prints, and works on paper are produced in our own Wapping studio, Execution Dock. The book *Outsiders* is out now published by Thames & Hudson and the organisation is featured in Oscar-nominated documentary *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. Incorporating the online store www.theoutsiders.net and the spaces on London’s Greek Street and in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, The Outsiders welcomes over ten thousand visitors annually.

Lazarides

Lazarides Inc is one of the world’s most influential galleries, with three permanent spaces and extensive high profile off-site activity. The group is dedicated to emerging international artists who defy categorisation, often existing outside of conventional artistic career structures. This vision has resonated with the general public and major collectors alike.

Founded in 2006 by Steve Lazarides, the group represents some of the most exciting and innovative artists working today including Antony Micallef, David Choe, JR, Vhils, Faile, Jonathan Yeo, Charlie Isoe, Conor Harrington, Ian Francis, Stanley Donwood, 3D, Invader, Zevs, Mode 2, Todd James /Reas, Blu, Paul Insect and BÄST.

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