

Press Release

11 March 2008

Tate St Ives Summer Season Exhibitions 2008

Adam Chodzko *Proxigean Tide*

Dawn of a Colony: *Picturing the West, St Ives 1811 – 1888*

24 May – 21 September 2008

Adam Chodzko *Proxigean Tide*

Adam Chodzko (b1965) is an artist who works directly with the people and places that surround him, often peripheral communities that define themselves through their own rituals and folklore. Tate St Ives is the first public gallery in the UK to present a selected survey of Chodzko's work from the past fifteen years - over half of which has never been seen in the UK – alongside a major new commission produced especially for this show. St Ives, with its location on the very edge of the British Isles and its rich local history and traditions, provides a fertile context in which to re-examine his work.

Chodzko uses a wide variety of media including video, performance, posters, sculpture, sound, photography and installation. His highly imaginative works draw on narrative, cultural and filmic traditions, often using the seductive but slippery device of storytelling, or contemporary mythologies, to create a space pitched somewhere between documentary and fantasy, the extraordinary and the everyday.

Chodzko will produce a new work especially for Tate St Ives that engages directly with the architecture of the building, as well as the various communities living in and around the town. Taking the form of a storage or changing room located in the building's Heron Mall, it will gather together the winter clothing and cold weather kit from numerous local clubs, societies, groups, individuals and industries. These garments will be collated, catalogued, stored and displayed for the duration of the summer exhibition.

Another gallery will be devoted to the multi-faceted *Design for a Carnival*, an ongoing project that charts the evolution of a ritual event set in the future. It comprises numerous works including elaborate, handmade 'masks' for video and photographic cameras; a dubplate recording the music from a future carnival float; a burning pyre of baseball caps; an haute couture dress designed to clothe a wind turbine; and documentation of a colony of ants distributing sequins amongst their anthill.

A screening room will be created to show a selection of Chodzko's video works including *Hole* 2007, *Around* 2007 and *Yet* 2005, produced, respectively, for Museum d'arte Moderna, Bologna, Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin and apexart, NewYork, and never before shown in the UK.

Chodzko has exhibited extensively since 1991 including: Venice Biennale; Royal Academy, London; Deste Foundation, Athens; PS1, New York, and Kunstmuseum Luzern, and produced commissions for The Contemporary Art Society, Frieze Art Fair and Hayward Gallery, London. His work is in the collections of the Tate, The British Council, The Arts Council, and international museums and private collections.

A full colour monograph designed by Claudia Schenck will accompany the exhibition and will include critical texts written by Martin Herbert, Andrew Wilson, Lisa Le Feuvre and Martin Clark.

Opening hours: March–October daily 10.00–17.20, last admission 17.00

Admission: £5.75; £3.25 concessions; free to under 18s and Members

For further information, please call Arwen Fitch, 01736 792185 email: arwen.fitch@tate.org.uk

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At Tate St Ives this summer, a special exhibition curated with St Ives art historian David Tovey showcases works by some of the early visitors to the town who contributed to its establishment as an internationally renowned artist's colony.

It is well recognised that by the late 1800s St Ives in Cornwall, distinct from its counterpart Newlyn some 10 miles across the Penwith Peninsula, was a thriving artist colony. Following the trend in Parisian studios to sojourn in rural retreats such as Concarneau and Pont Aven, artists from all over Europe and North America were seeking destinations which could provide a complementary space, light and subject for *plein-air* painting. It was against this backdrop that many artists came to St Ives, inspired by the extraordinary light and landscape.

From the point of Turner's arrival in 1811, the exhibition considers key figures in British marine and landscape painting who visited before 1890 - including Henry Moore RA, John Brett and James Clarke Hook, who depicted the natural and social dramas of the town's Atlantic coastline. It was also a destination for international exchange as artists moved between these emerging colonies across Europe. *Picturing the West* gives a rare opportunity to see Breton works by Marianne Stokes and Henry Harewood Robinson, alongside canvases by Scandinavian painters Anders Zorn and Helene Schjerfbeck, who all spent time working in St Ives.

Lesser known artists Edward Cooke and Frederick Mercer complement studies by James Whistler, Walter Sickert and Mortimer Menpes in Tate St Ives panoramic sea-facing gallery, creating an extraordinary dialogue between the real contemporary and perceived historic landscape

Drawing from national and international public and private collections, *Dawn of a Colony* is a collaborative project with Penlee House Art Gallery and Museum in Penzance. From 14 June to 13 September 2008, Penlee House hosts Dawn of a Colony: *Lyrical Light: St Ives 1889-1914* which, curated by David Tovey, surveys the initial proliferation of artists working in St Ives at the turn of the century up until the First World War.

Penlee House Gallery and Museum, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4HE

Tel: 01736 363625 email: info@penleehouse.org.uk

Opening hours: Monday – Saturday 10.00 - 17.00, last admission 16.30

Admission: £3.00; £2.00 concessions, free to children and Friends of Penlee House

Free admission on Saturdays

Tate St Ives, St Ives, TR26 1TG

Tel: 01736 796226 email: visiting.stives@tate.org.uk

Opening hours: March–October daily 10.00–17.20, last admission 17.00

Admission: £5.75; £3.25 concessions; free to under 18s and Members

For further information on all the exhibitions, please call Arwen Fitch, 01736 792185

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