

REUBEN COLLEY



Reuben Colley showed artistic talent from an early age. After leaving school he studied at Bournville Art College, Birmingham and in 1995 he enrolled at The University of Wolverhampton, where he gained a BA Honours in 'Fine Art' specialising in painting.

Over the twelve years that Reuben has been working as a professional landscape painter, his unique talent and whole-hearted commitment to advancing the discipline of landscape painting have earned him wide recognition within the British art scene. Through numerous nationwide shows and prestigious commission projects, Reuben has built enormous support from a worldwide network of loyal collectors, all of whom now eagerly await the artist's new collection of work.

The works on show are Colley's explorations of London's elusive glamour, the city of rain, fog and dusk. Thus, he steadily follows the tradition that reaches back to Whistler and Monet and runs to Kossoff and Auerbach. By the process of visual enquiry Colley managed to recreate the very spirit and atmosphere of London; these paintings are not moody, as one may expect. On the contrary, they are anything but that, lyrical and nostalgic, yes and exceptionally painted. Here Colley continues his life-long pursuit of documenting the urban landscape. Moving away from the Hopperesque earlier works, present collection demonstrates significant development in Colley's style and technique.

When one looks at Colley's works it becomes clear that the very act of painting is as important for this artist as the subject matter he depicts. The flickering light, a delicate paint surface of half tones, are enhanced by evanescent moments of colour, all the more powerful in their effect for being so sparingly deployed.

"Reuben Colley's paintings are serious but far from solemn; indeed, they are full of a sense of wonder; even of joy, at the very act of artistic creation. They are the real thing." (Robin Simon, art historian, critic, writer and broadcaster).

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 2009 Birmingham Seen (Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery)
- 2008 The Art Of Birmingham 1940 to the Millennium (Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery)
- 2008 Reuben Colley Exhibition (ICC, Birmingham)
- 2007 Birmingham Open (Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery)
- 2007 Urban Landscapes (New Bond Street, London)
- 2005 Venice (ICC, Birmingham)
- 2005 California (Bruton Street, London)
- 2003 Forward (ICC, Birmingham)
- 2002 Impressions of London (Harrods, London)
- 2002 Streetlife (ICC, Birmingham)
- 2001 Impressions of Birmingham (ICC, Birmingham)

Awards

- 2007 Best Work on Paper - Birmingham Open (Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery)
- 2002 Best Up & Coming Published Artist (Fine Art Trade Guild)

Acquisitions

- 2003 Brindley Light (Acquired by Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery)
- 2002 Council House (Acquired by Birmingham City Council)