

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2009

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



‘Swordsman’ Smibert works on show at UTAS

Media are invited to a preview of *Flying White*, an exhibition of new paintings by Tony Smibert at the NEW Gallery, UTAS, Newnham on Thursday 18 June at 11.30am.

The NEW Gallery will be officially opened this Thursday 18 June with an exhibition of new paintings by the internationally renowned artist, Tony Smibert, titled *Flying White*.

The chair of the NEW gallery management committee, Dr Robyn Glade-Wright, said the gallery is an initiative of the University of Tasmania to engage both the arts community and the broader Tasmanian public.

“The NEW Gallery has recently emerged as part of the revitalisation of the Newnham campus – this is our first big opening and we are excited about bringing this exhibition of new paintings by Tony Smibert to the public,” she said.

Tony Smibert is well known in Tasmania, and throughout the world, for his watercolour landscapes and his artistic synergies with JMW Turner, the English watercolourist of the nineteenth century whose idyllic and atmospheric scenes of the British landscape influenced generations of artists.

This exhibition, *Flying White*, pushes the boundaries of traditional landscape painting and reveals a strong Japanese influence in the use of bold brushstrokes. Smibert remarked that when creating the works he had to “commit to the stroke in much the same way as a swordsman – it was a matter of seizing the moment and responding immediately.”

The exhibition has been curated by Ms Louise Reid Davies, NEW Gallery, University of Tasmania.

“The aims of the NEW Gallery are to promote new and original ideas in the art scene and to be a place where ideas of both established and emerging art and art forms can meet,” Ms Davies said.

“We are thrilled that we can open the gallery with this exhibition, which represents a new artistic direction for the artist that has grown from his earlier influences.”

As the artist, Tony Smibert, has said: ‘There is little point in standing still.’

The exhibition will continue to 7 August 2009. Opening hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.

For further information please contact Louise Reid Davies, Curator, University of Tasmania, ph. 6324 3214; Tony Smibert, artist, ph. 6362 2474; Robyn Glade-Wright, Chair, NEW Gallery Management Committee, ph.6324 3298.

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