

Timothy Taylor Gallery

Alex Katz

9 June – 10 July 2004

Alex Katz is one of the most important artists to emerge on the American art scene since 1950. In this exhibition of twelve new paintings Katz shows the vitality that has made him a pivotal figure for so many younger artists.

The elongated composition of five new portraits challenge the conventions of portraiture. Each woman is cropped almost to the point of abstraction, referring to the cropping technique in Katz's celebrated painting 'Red Coat' from 1982. The images are direct and sharp, with intense flat colour planes that transform each woman to near iconic status.

The new landscape paintings contrast with these portraits in both format and colour, but again show Katz pushing the boundaries of what he can achieve. A solid blank canvas with a few irregular white marks becomes moonlight passing through branches. In another, tree branches and trunks set up a rhythmic passage across a 5 metre wide canvas.

Katz's love of mass media, photography and cartoons makes him central to the artistic concerns of a younger generation of artists. However, when Alex Katz came to recognition in the 1950s, his work was at odds with the prevailing orthodoxy of Abstract Expressionism. Katz had trained as a graphic designer, designing posters, book jackets and magazine covers, and this sensibility still informs his close-up vantage points and cropped compositions.

Alex Katz was born in New York in 1927. His first solo show was in New York in 1954. Major exhibitions since have included retrospectives by the Whitney Museum of American Art (1986); Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden Baden, Germany (1995); IVAM, Spain (1996); P.S.1, New York (1996-8); Saatchi Gallery, London (1998); Galleria Civica, Trento, Italy (1999); Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh (2000); 'Small Paintings' at the Whitney, New York (2002); Kunsthalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn (2002); the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice (2003).

15 Carlos Place London W1K 2EX Telephone 020 7409 3344 Facsimile 020 7409 1316

Open Mon-Fri 10-6pm Sat 10-2pm

For further information please contact Carla Borel

Tel: 020 7409 3344 or Email: carla@timothytaylorgallery.com