



Press Release

June 2005

All That Glitters
Memory, magic, fantasy and fairy tales
The further uses of enchantment

**A new exhibition of paintings and drawings by
British artist
Adam Ball**

**Monday 20 June to Friday 15 July 2005
Mayfair, London.**

Press and Private View: Sunday 19 June 2005.

Alternative dates for press viewings and interviews with Adam Ball can be arranged.

A catalogue of works is available. Please contact Manfredi della Gherardesca at MDG Fine Arts on telephone 020 7409 7800 or email info@mdgfinearts.co.uk.

Manfredi della Gherardesca, in conjunction with Patrizia Papachristidis, will show a new body of work by British artist Adam Ball. The culmination of one year's work, Adam Ball's London solo show *All That Glitters* is on display from Monday 20 June to Friday 15 July 2005.

Two years after Adam Ball painted his much acclaimed 32 x 22ft canvas of *The Tree* for Golden Square, London, his newest collection of 20 works makes reference to his early childhood memories – the magic, timelessness, fantasy and ephemeral world of fairy tales and story telling.

An infusion of red, oranges, yellows and blues, and the painstaking subtle application of glitter and gold thread, each painting depicts specific places and events that resonate with the artist. By remaining faithful to nature the paintings question how our childhood perceptions of the world differ from adult perceptions today.

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The fine glitter and pattern is used to suggest elements of narrative, such as the trail of breadcrumbs in *Hansel and Gretel*. In the painting *Hansel found no crumbs* all of the original Grimm Brothers text is written meticulously onto the canvas but is made invisible by subsequent layers of paint, leaving only trace elements of the story. In other works, commissioned stories or accounts of personal events are written on the canvas and then made illegible with paint 'locking in' the story.

Art critic Adrian Dannatt said of the works: "Ball wishes to slow and steady our gaze, to lure us into the appropriate concentration upon each work, so it may "give back" all of its own making. And this is achieved not just by the initial sensual pleasure of the work but by the layers of application, the palimpsest of painterly decision built into each surface. The very beading, pearls and words, fragments of text, a dense impasto of buried texture and narrative resonance, hold, and hypnotize our eyes. Like all serious art Ball's paintings are to a degree about art itself, they are their own essay and argument about the sustained potential of such image making. Ball has strong practical knowledge of image making. Hence one may be sure that when he makes decisions, choices in his work, from format and size to material and subject matter, they are absolutely right."

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Editor's Notes:

Manfredi della Gherardesca, MDG Fine Arts, is currently representing Adam Ball. For further information please contact MDG Fine Arts, 10 St James's Place, London, SW1 on telephone 020 7409 7800 or email info@mdgfinearts.co.uk

Adam Ball's exhibition *All That Glitters* is presented by Manfredi della Gherardesca in association with Patrizia Papachristidis.

Image of painting on page one of this press release: *Hansel found no crumbs* by Adam Ball, 150 x 106cm, oil, acrylic and glitter on canvas.

Press Contact:

For further press information, to arrange press viewings, images and interviews with Adam Ball please contact Susan Barber on telephone 020 8460 9732 mobile 07810 798119 or email susan@sjbpr.com