

Foreword from Artist Anthony John Gray

Dave Holden's new work for his show in January 2007 reconfirms his ability to move from intense small drawings to large scale work in oils. He has always used his own personal experiences from inside (although he is not always aware of this) and transferred those inner feelings in a dramatic application of impasto and colour to the canvas.

His recent series on paper show the fine detail worked with areas of charcoal to produce exquisite examples of his talent in drawing. The true essence of a painter lies in the hidden area of being able to draw and translate through the medium of pencil and charcoal, Dave excels in both mediums.

In his new canvasses he has released a power that was coming through in the earlier work but now seems to have been given full reign. Going back to the masters to reflect has enhanced his work to a degree that new forms are appearing in the areas of impasto colour that will keep any audience transfixed for sometime.

With works such as these now coming out of his system it will only be a matter of time before he has a major show of his works in London. But above all there is an inner truth about Dave Holden's work, something that cannot always be said about a lot of painters who seem to be consumed by nothing but a media response to over rated ideas.

He holds a value about what he is trying to achieve and it shows in his new images.

There is a more in depth look at colour and construction, more of a feeling from the inner man.

One still sees the struggle in his works but that's what makes great paintings. There is also a great energy applied on the surfaces, a natural working in areas of intense colour and sometimes these colours can conflict and fight each other for territory but Dave achieves this successfully knowing instinctively where to put the right mark.

Keep going Dave and looking forward to your exhibition.

Anthony John Gray 2006.