

Oculus

GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2017

Los Angeles, California, USA



War Poppy 1, 2015
Stochastic pigment ink print
Edition of 8 + 2 APs
39 3/8 x 39 3/8 in. (100cm x 100 cm)

Oculus Gallery and artist Giles Revell are pleased to announce the donation of “War Poppy 1”, Revell’s 2015 artwork, to the Los Angeles British Consul General. The artwork will take place of prominence in the office of the recently–instated British Consul General, Michael Howells. The work will also be considered for acquisition by the United Kingdom Government Art Program which displays artwork in British Government buildings around the world, promoting British art and culture.

Consul General Michael Howells remarked, “This is a beautiful work of art and an important reminder of the folly of war. I am honoured to give it a new home in the British Consulate General in Los Angeles.”

The installation coincides with Remembrance Day, also informally known as Poppy Day, a memorial day observed in Commonwealth of Nations member states since the end of the First World War to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

On June 21, 2016 Revell’s image Battlefield Poppy debuted as a Royal Mail 1st-class stamp, as part of a limited-edition series commemorating World War I. The image depicts a sole, pristine poppy standing against a bleak and murky landscape reminiscent of a warzone.

Completed after Battlefield Poppy, Revell continues his fascination with flower symbolism to create War Poppies, a unique series examining a more intricate exploration of war using a different scale and more expansive canvas. In War Poppy 3, the red of the poppy bleeds from the petals into the landscape, offering a thought provoking ambiguity and powerful detail too small to capture on a 35 x 35mm stamp.

In War Poppies, Revell personifies the flower showing us its fragility and resilience amidst the chaos and fear of the battlefield. Revell brings these associations to the already symbolically steeped flower. Of particular importance to the British, the poppy is a symbol of remembrance for members of armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Often called the “remembrance poppy,” the flower rose to symbolic prominence shortly after WWI and the publication of “In Flanders Fields,” a poem by Canadian doctor John McCrae. The poem noted the poppies that frequently grew by the thousands in the war-ravaged fields of Europe where little else could grow. Today the poppy is perhaps most closely associated with Remembrance Day, a holiday observed each November by states belonging to the Commonwealth of Nations.

Revell’s methodology for War Poppies had him create each scene by injecting pigments of varying viscosity through catheters into a water-filled tank. The resulting clouds and streams of color mimic the explosion and fallout of the battlefield. With each image he first established the vast plane of the landscape, next added the mortar-fire-like clouds, and finished with the delicate addition of the poppy. The five works of art are available in editions of eight with two artist proofs each.

War Poppies builds on Revell’s earlier body of nature-inspired photography known for its abstract and technologically sophisticated approach, influenced by the artist’s early training as a geologist. As in the image of a single poppy in a vast battlefield, Revell’s work is celebrated for its ability to illuminate the extraordinary in the ordinary.

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ABOUT GILES REVELL

Giles Revell was born in 1965 in Hertfordshire, England. He has had several solo shows in London, most notably at Michael Hoppen Gallery and The Yard Gallery. He has exhibited widely in group shows, and his work is part of the permanent national collection at the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England. Revell is also an award-winning commercial photographer and has published his work in New York Times Magazine, Wallpaper, Avaunt, The Guardian, Port Magazine and The Financial Times Magazine.

ABOUT OCULUS GALLERY

Oculus Gallery is a Los Angeles-based gallery focusing on fine vintage design, contemporary photography and art.

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Oculus Gallery
Tara DeWitt
+1 (323) 531-2145
tara@oculus-gallery.com
www.oculus-gallery.com

HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES OF WAR POPPY 1 *IN SITU*

Dropbox

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p66oq8hp3ey41sh/AADpWwczOMOPWQhgh11iMQkBa?dl=0>

GoogleDrive

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wAdU5vAvGn7cOxfumK1PF41wcRF2bljF?usp=sharing>