EXHIBITION OF NEW PAINTINGS

MIKE HEALEY

20th – 31st JANUARY, 2010

All paintings are for sale on receipt of this catalogue
Please visit our website to view the entire exhibition on line from 11th January

www.thompsonsgallery.com
FOREWORD

Mike has travelled widely, yet his painting is still informed by returning to the unspoilt West Coast of Scotland, to evocative places in Argyllshire and the wild unspoilt sea coasts of Mull, Iona, Kintyre and Jura. These places continue to astonish him in different ways. He enjoys contrasts, such as those found on the gentle isle of Colonsay with the big landscapes of Ardnamurchan.

Landscape painting is not about scenery. It is not a "view". It is what the artist does with that view that is essential. It is not just the sky, or the sea or the horizon that is important but it is the selection and technique of painting these various elements that brings this to our notice that is important. Painting has always been more about poetry than prose. The best of it is about being lyrical and evocative rather than painstakingly representative. This show of new works by Mike is about this careful and sensitive approach.

Mike invites you to share in his experience. The joy of connection between the artist and the audience is similar to appreciating a shared passage of music. In Mike’s painting the light of a winter day, the warmth of a summer evening, the simple pleasure of a beach, the edge of time between the land and the sea or the flash of light on the sea all bring to us this shared pleasure. Yet, paradoxically, most of what an artist paints nobody ever sees. It may simply not work, be edited out, over painted or destroyed. This lengthy research process sometimes, often miraculously, does come together and work. These then are the works that work and the ones that have survived this rigorous approach.

James Robertson RSA RSW RGY PAI DLITT
Kilbranan Sound  Oil on canvas  12 x 24 inches
Snowfall and Sheep  Oil on canvas  12 x 24 inches
Homes in the Snow  Oil on canvas  30 x 48 inches
Kilaran Bay, Colonsay  Oil on canvas  20 x 30 inches

Paps of Jura from Colonsay  Oil on canvas  20 x 30 inches

One Fine Day  Oil on board  20 x 30 inches
Summer Evening Sail, Ilay and Jura  
Oil on canvas  20 x 36 inches

Westerly Gale, Westport Beach, Kintyre  
Oil on canvas  20 x 36 inches

Sailing off Mallaig Harbour, West Coast of Scotland  
Oil on canvas  32 x 48 inches
Sea Shadow, Kilron Bay, Colonsay  Oil on canvas  30 x 48 inches

Mull from Isle of Iona  Oil on canvas  30 x 46 inches (right)
Tobermory Harbour  Oil on canvas  12 x 16 inches
Red Roofed Croft  Oil on canvas  12 x 16 inches (right)
Morning Light, Plockton  Oil on canvas  16 x 36 inches (right)
Snow and Shadow  Oil on canvas  20 x 24 inches
Sunshine and Snow  Oil on canvas  20 x 24 inches
Keil Beach, Argyle  Oil on canvas  20 x 30 inches
Evening Light, Low Tide, Western Isles  Oil on board  20 x 16 inches

One Fine Day  Oil on board  20 x 16 inches

Summer Isles  Oil on canvas  20 x 30 inches
Summer Isles  Oil on canvas  20 x 30 inches

Kilaran Bay  Oil on canvas  12 x 24 inches

Evening Light, Summer Isles  Oil on canvas  30 x 48 inches
Looking Westwards, Arnamurchan
Oil on canvas, 20 x 36 inches

Rhom from Arisaig
Oil on canvas, 20 x 36 inches

Silver Light, Western Isles
Oil on board, 20 x 36 inches

Magic Light, Western Isles
Oil on board, 20 x 36 inches
MIKE HEALEY

Mike Healey studied under John Cunningham at Glasgow School of Art, winning the Haldane Traveling Scholarship and the Leverhulme Traveling Scholarship. In the early 1980s he was appointed senior lecturer at Glasgow School of Art and worked there until 1997. Mike now divides his time between his Argyll studio, painting trips and teaching at Lincoln University, where he was awarded a personal professorial chair in art and design in 2003.

A popular colorist painter of rich still lives, Scottish landscapes, snow scenes and seascapes. Mike paints spontaneous ‘plein-air’ scenes in the Highlands and the Islands. He is a true painter of the Scottish School and has exhibited extensively throughout his career, in his native Scotland and in London, New York, Philadelphia, Maryland, Bermuda and Japan. His paintings may be found in several public, corporate and private collections worldwide, including Glasgow School of Art, the European Parliament, the Royal Mail, Woburn Abbey, Argyll and Bute Museum and Libraries, the Scottish Education Department, The Collection, Bermuda, under the patronage of HRH the Prince of Wales. The Bank of Scotland, Coutts Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland have all purchased several paintings for their permanent collections.

Mike has exhibited with Thompson’s Gallery since June 2000 this is his sixth major solo show.