



Weston Park's new Granary Gallery, on the Shropshire/ Staffordshire borders looks forward to welcoming the work of the London-based artist Rupert Dixon in a month long solo exhibition throughout May 2010. The Gallery, which occupies the upper floors of the great Palladian barn designed by James Paine for Sir Henry Bridgeman, 5th Bt. will see its own interior transformed by the austere grandeur of Rupert Dixon's works.

The works, brought together under the title of **A State of Interiors**, reveal a lifelong fascination of great country houses and stately homes, with much of Rupert's most recent work in fact inspired by the palaces, villas and yali's of Istanbul. An evident admiration the opulent idiom of the Russian, Venetian and Ottoman styles, is combined with his own innate taste. Light filtering through peeling shutters, glancing on chandeliers and revealing what Dixon describes as "The mood of the room removed from its utility" yields an almost Dickensian sense of light and darkness. Using the scale and grandeur of the subjects of his works he aims to evoke our sentiments and sense of loss for yesteryear.

His is an intentional mismatch of styles, and he borrows freely in a genre where paintings are overtly a canvas for our own imagination. Rupert does not turn the lights on - he asks us to question and to see where the sun has gone and where the moonlight hides.

Rupert takes many images of interiors that he likes; then he rips them up and combines them, recreates them as his own - empowered yet partly abstract. The texture is both matt and gloss, the work both finished and unfinished. He also works in oil on canvas. Rupert Dixon's works are not identified by their titles and yet they give the viewer the sense of having seen them before, their almost ethereal beauty bringing to mind the threats that Britain's own country house legacy experienced in the middle years of the twentieth century.

Weston Park's Curator, Gareth Williams, comments:

"In creating the works for the exhibition at Weston Park's Granary Gallery, Rupert has sought inspiration from Byron's Childe Harold's Pilgrimage and the works seem to sum up the poetic passages:

"Palaces are crumbling, even dearer in their day of woe
Than when they were a boast, a marvel, and a show."

We are thrilled to be showing Rupert's works which bring international heritage to life in an extraordinarily refreshing and yet questioning manner. These are individually stunning works and we are delighted to be welcoming him to exhibit at Weston Park".

Weston Park's Granary Gallery, which was converted thanks to generous funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and regional development agency, Advantage West Midlands in 2009 stands adjacent to Weston Park which was itself saved for the nation in 1986 with funding from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The family home of the Earls of Bradford, Weston Park is renowned for the outstanding indigenous collection of works of art that it contains including a superb series of portraits by Sir Anthony van Dyck.

Rupert Dixon; A State of Interiors Exhibition in the Granary Gallery runs from 1st -30th May 2010. Daily 11.00hours to 16.00 hours.

***For further information please contact Gareth Williams on 01952 852131.
www.weston-park.com***