

PRESS RELEASE

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DAVID HOCKNEY Hand Eye Heart
26 February through 2 April 2005
Opening reception for the artist: Friday, 25 February 2005, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to announce an exhibition of new watercolour paintings of East Yorkshire by David Hockney.

In 2002, following the publication of his book *Secret Knowledge*, in which he explored the use of optical projections in Western art from the time of Byzantium to Cézanne, David Hockney moved away from the camera and back towards the hand. In so doing, Hockney chose to paint in watercolour, a medium that he had rarely used previously. In 2002 and 2003 Hockney traveled in Europe, capturing the Northern summer light of Norway and Iceland, and the winter light of Spain. He also painted a series of watercolours of his home and studio in Los Angeles, which were included in the 2004 Whitney Biennial. Hockney's three-year exploration of watercolour led to a new series of landscape paintings of East Yorkshire, which reveal Hockney's mastery of the medium.

The subject of the exhibition *Hand Eye Heart* is one that first engaged his imagination as a teenager when, during summer holidays, he worked the fields of East Yorkshire, stooking corn. Hockney has recently felt drawn back to this landscape, where one experiences "the sorts of wide vistas you get all the time in the American West." The subject of the American West has been the source of much of the artist's inspiration over the past 15 years, and culminated in the large paintings of the Grand Canyon that were included in Hockney's last show at LA Louver in Fall 1998, *Looking at Landscape/Bring in Landscape*.

Hand Eye Heart is the result of Hockney's extended visits to East Yorkshire during late 2003 and 2004. Hockney's embrace of watercolour afforded him the ability to capture the subtleties of the ever-changing weather patterns and diffused light of this northern landscape. Venturing out on long drives with paintbrushes and small pots of paint in hand, Hockney made small watercolour studies in a notebook. Later in the studio, he worked up the studies to large paintings, using single or double sheets of thick Arche paper that can support the swaths of watercolour paint and layering of colour.

This exhibition of watercolours will be presented in L.A. Louver's first and second floor galleries. In addition to an extensive body of single and double sheet watercolour paintings, the exhibition includes a large work made up of 36 individual watercolours displayed in a grid format.

A 140-page, hardbound colour catalogue that includes an essay by Lawrence Weschler, and foreword by Peter Goulds, accompanies the exhibition.

For further information and visuals, please contact Elizabeth East, L.A. Louver, 45 North Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA 90291; telephone 310-822-4955; fax: 310-821-7529;
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