

CONNAUGHT BROWN

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Geoff Uglow: MMXIV

1st April – 16th May, 2015



Geoff Uglow, *MMXIV (November)* 2014, oil on board, 85 x 130 cm

With his spectacular new series of work, *MMXIV*, Geoff Uglow has re-defined the parameters of contemporary British landscape painting. Over the course of one year, he has chronicled the changing seasons by painting metonymically a single colour for each day. Displayed in a calendar format, with twelve distinct panels, Uglow presents a strikingly modernist colour diary.

Born and raised in the Cornish countryside, Uglow's love for the landscape is intrinsic to his practice. In this recent body of work he has sourced and assembled individual shades and hues from details within his local environment - the petals of a bluebell, the bark of a silver birch, the light falling upon a patch of hedgerow - distilling the essence of the landscape into its purest forms.

In its systematic arrangement of colours, Uglow's calendar echoes the grid-like compositions of Piet Mondrian. The mathematical sequence of the work conveys the fundamental order Uglow perceives in nature itself: "In nature everything seems so well designed and works so perfectly". Yet, as in the natural world, there is a sense of chaos and growth as the thickness of the paint moves over the edge of each panel, giving the work a more softened, sensory quality.

There is also a deeply personal aspect to this piece. While Uglow has long been interested in ideas of the eternal within the landscape, this calendar imparts a sense that days and months pass. Capturing with colour the mood of each collected day, what we see is an inner landscape of memories. As Uglow explains, it is "an epitaph to days". Similarly, he demands of the viewer a meditative response, as our eyes must move between one day and the next, piecing together detailed fragments to create our own landscapes.

Resonating with Gerhard Richter's modernist colour charts, Uglow zooms in on the very act of painting itself with his gestural swirls of thickly applied paint. By manipulating the fluidity of the medium, he also brings a lyrical movement to the work with which we are perpetually reminded of the beauty and variety of the ever-changing natural world.

This is Geoff Uglow's fourth solo show at Connaught Brown, following on from *Fathom* (2008), *Coda* (2010) and *Quercus Robur* (2013).

For more information and images please contact Ruth Millington at art@connaughtbrown.co.uk