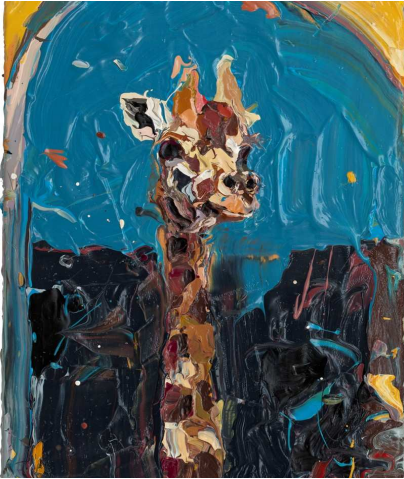


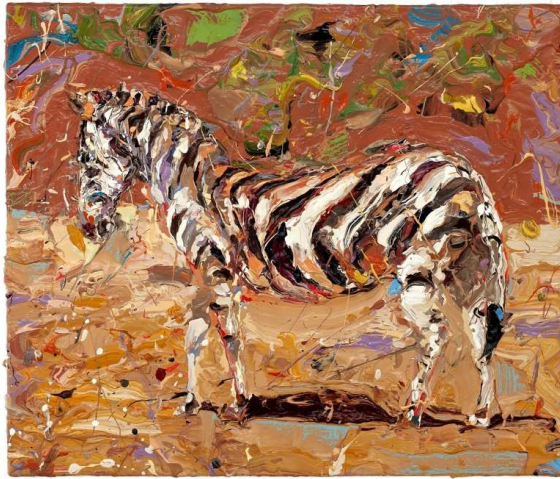
PAUL RICHARDS

A Day at the Zoo

02.06.11 – 02.07.11



Giraffe Head 2011, Oil on canvas, 45.2 x 35.5 cm



Zebra 2010, Oil on canvas 55.2 x 47 cm



Camel Head 2011, Oil on canvas, 29.8 x 29.8 cm

Paul Richards is the first major British portraitist to build an emotive profile of ZSL London Zoo. Over a three year period he spent time getting to know its creatures, allowing him to create poignant studies that convey the same level of intimacy as his human portraits.

Following the course of great masters such as Van Eyck, Rembrandt and Stubbs, Richards brings his distinct form of psychological drama to the canon of animal painting. Amongst his vibrant animal portraits is a hugely affecting depiction of Yeboah the gorilla, who sadly died before the work was completed. Such representations communicate the artist's powerful affiliation with his subjects and an enduring concern for the welfare of each creature as an individual spirit.

Richards belongs to the "eccentric mainstream" of individuality in British Art. His fascination with ZSL London Zoo lies in the particular resonance of the site as a space for public interaction and self-discovery. Richards' witty observations tell as much about human experience - our attitudes towards life, death and society - as they do the animal kingdom.

A Day at the Zoo is the eleventh exhibition of Richards' work to be hosted by Connaught Brown. The artist is a highly influential and long time lecturer at the Slade School of Fine Art, internationally regarded as one of the true originals of contemporary British painting.

Connaught Brown and ZSL will be hosting a special press morning on June 1. For further information and to RSVP contact: Katy Norris at art@connaughtbrown.co.uk / +44(0)20 7408 0362

ZSL
LONDON
ZOO

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