

Turner Contemporary

Press Release

Making Painting: Helen Frankenthaler and JMW Turner

Making Painting: Helen Frankenthaler and JMW Turner (until 11 May 2014) launches Turner Contemporary's 2014 programme. Showcasing the work of the celebrated American Abstract Expressionist painter, Helen Frankenthaler, alongside paintings by JMW Turner from the nineteenth century, the exhibition includes 24 paintings by Frankenthaler, whose last public gallery exhibition in the UK was at the Whitechapel in 1969.

Turner Contemporary Director, Victoria Pomery said:

"Helen Frankenthaler is a much overlooked artist despite being an important voice in the development of Abstract Expressionism. The exhibition provides a unique opportunity to see a significant body of her paintings in the UK alongside some great works by JMW Turner. This exhibition explores painting more broadly, allowing similarities as well as differences to be revealed between both artists' practice."

Making Painting explores the concept that, though working on different continents in different centuries, JMW Turner and Helen Frankenthaler share fundamental qualities in their use of paint and colour, form and narrative, and in their understanding of landscape.

The exhibition is devised and curated by Turner scholar James Hamilton, whose writings on nineteenth- and twentieth-century art have explored the continuing resonance of Turner's life and work across the past 200 years. Mr Hamilton explains the ethos behind the bringing together of two seemingly disparate artists:

"This exhibition encourages us all to rely not on what we might know but on what we can see, and as far as possible to throw off the burden of art history. It is the excitements of this conjunction between a Romantic nineteenth-century Briton and an Abstract Expressionist twentieth-century American that the exhibition seeks to evoke, revealing the fellowship that the two artists share in paint across their temporal divide, and the vibrant correspondences which uncover something of the timeless cerebral foundations of landscape art. These two artists could

Turner Contemporary, Rendezvous, Margate, Kent CT9 1HG T +44(0)1843 233000

info@turnercontemporary.org turnercontemporary.org

Registered charity number 1129974

only have met and talked in our imaginations: so bringing their work together takes imagination just one small step further towards reality and allows us to examine values common to both. By exploring two individuals' attitude to landscape painting across the centuries, this show takes us into the fourth dimension: time."

The exhibition includes a substantial number of works by both artists. With 12 Turner oils and 21 watercolours, it is the largest collection of paintings by JMW Turner at Turner Contemporary since *Turner and the Elements* in 2012.

Making Painting: Helen Frankenthaler and JMW Turner opened on 25 January 2014 and will run to 11 May 2014.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Images and information

<https://turnercontemporary.sharefile.com/d/s8dc34c9e649443ab>

Monique Kent, Press and Media Officer, mkent@turnercontemporary.org, 01843 233019.

Sponsors

Making Painting: Helen Frankenthaler and JMW Turner is sponsored by Investaco and supported by Crown Fine Arts.

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Turner Contemporary

Taking inspiration from JMW Turner, Turner Contemporary is a contemporary arts organisation based in Margate, Kent that aims to enhance the understanding and enjoyment of historical and contemporary art with a dynamic and diverse international programme of exhibitions and events.

- In copy please refer to Turner Contemporary and not 'The Turner Contemporary'
- Gallery opening times: Mon: Closed, Tue - Sun: 10.00 - 18.00
- Address: Turner Contemporary, Rendezvous, Margate, CT9 1HG
- Information: 01843 233000, turnercontemporary.org

Turner Contemporary receives core funding from Kent County Council and Arts Council England, and is part of the Plus Tate network.

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation

For further information about Helen Frankenthaler or the Foundation, info@frankenthalerfoundation.org



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