

David Hockney

The East Yorkshire Landscape

9 February through 24 March, 2007

Opening reception for the artist: Friday, 9 February, 7:00-9:00 p.m.



David Hockney, *Elderflower Blossom, Kilham. 2, 3 & 4 July 2006, 2006*, Oil on 2 Canvases (48 x 36" each) 48 x 72"
© David Hockney

“It’s not just about landscape, it’s about being in it, seeing it, it’s about England.
I’m painting the real England.”

— David Hockney

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to announce an exhibition of new oil paintings by David Hockney. The subject of the paintings is the landscape of East Yorkshire, which first engaged Hockney’s imagination as a teenager when he worked on the land during summer holidays, stooking corn. As an adult, Hockney has intermittently returned to this part of England when visiting his mother and sister at their home in the coastal town of Bridlington. However, he has only become fully absorbed by the landscape over the past four years, making it the primary source of inspiration for his art.

Attracted by the space and light of East Yorkshire, where he has said one experiences “the sorts of wide vistas you get all the time in the American West,” Hockney first addressed this pastoral landscape in watercolor. These earlier works were the subject of L.A. Louver’s exhibition *Hand Eye Heart* in March 2005. The watercolor medium allowed Hockney to work quickly en plein air to capture the changing light and its effect upon the land. Returning to the same locales, Hockney is now approaching the subject in oil, while still painting primarily in situ. Loading his car with easels, canvases and paints, Hockney drives to his chosen destination and sets up his tools. Then he sits for a couple of hours looking at the landscape, absorbing the landscape, before picking up a paintbrush. This quiet but intent observation is followed by feverish activity to capture the essence of what he sees. Hockney conveys the land and light in electric color, bringing to the canvases his love of place, both freshly observed and infused by decades of experience and the memories that it conjures of childhood days.

(continued)

In creating these paintings, Hockney eschews all use of photography, which standardizes color, flattens perspective and pushes the viewer away from things – as he has stated, “The camera sees geometrically – we must see psychologically.” As such, in Hockney’s paintings, one is brought present into the landscape with an immediacy that is filtered through the artist’s own experience of place, both felt and remembered.

The first of these landscape oil paintings, which Hockney began about eighteen months ago, were shown in London this past September. The subsequent works, which are the subject of L.A. Louver’s exhibition, demonstrate the artist pushing into larger formats, to include double and multi-panel paintings that depict the fields and thoroughfares of the bucolic landscape.



David Hockney Painting, May 17th 2006, Woldgate Wood, East Yorkshire
© David Hockney 2006 / Photo: Jean-Pierre Goncalves

David Hockney: The East Yorkshire Landscape is on view 9 February through 17 March at L.A. Louver, which is the exhibition’s sole venue. It is accompanied by a full-color catalogue.

L.A. Louver is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Validated parking is available.

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; e-mail elizabeth@lalouver.com; www.lalouver.com

