

WŁADYSŁAW MIRECKI

“...just as it is...”

1st – 30th March 2014





Link Span, Harwich Pier 2013 watercolour 70 x 75 cm £3,250

Front cover: Old Hall Farm, Wakes Colne. Full image page 24

WŁADYSŁAW MIRECKI

“ just as it is ”

WATERCOLOURS

OPENING DAY SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2014 NOON TO 5PM

WINE AND BEER SERVED

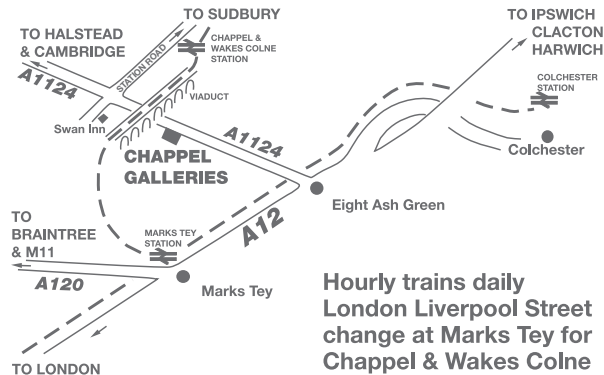
ALL WORKS FOR SALE

EXHIBITION FINISHES SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2014, 5PM

Chappel Galleries, 15 Colchetsr Road, Chappel, Essex CO6 2DE

Tel: 01206 240326 Email: info@chappelgalleries.co.uk Website: www.chappelgalleries.co.uk

Open every day for the duration of this exhibition 10am – 5pm or by appointment. Additional parking Swan Inn.





2 Chappel Viaduct 2012 watercolour 150 x 100 cm £9,000



The Parapet, Chappel Viaduct 1998 watercolour 75 x 95 cm
 Gifted to Chelmsford Museum 2009 by Mr Hubert Graham

WŁADYSŁAW MIRECKI

I first encountered Mirecki's work through a professional happenstance – as the newly appointed Curator of Social History and Art at Chelmsford Museum I was exploring the art in the collections and I was struck by two watercolours – Dooley's Field and The Parapet, Chappel Viaduct 1998 both by Władysław Mirecki. My attention was drawn by the subject matter as, although I work in Chelmsford, I live on the Essex/Suffolk border and the viaduct is a prominent local landmark. I was then struck by the feel of the work, attention to detail and his honest representation of his subject matter. Władysław (or Waj to those who know him) really captures the essence and sense of place in his work – both things that I think are essential in landscape painting.

In 2013 the museum put on a major temporary exhibition of Mirecki's work, titled Light and Dark, it juxtaposed Mirecki's work showing light and life with more dark and gothic themes by Paul Rumsey. The exhibition enabled me to get to know Waj, see more of his work, and get an insight into the meaning and thought processes that produced the work.

It is clear that the East Anglian landscape greatly inspires him and it is present in his new exhibition in all its forms, beaches at sunset with the setting sun reflected on the foreshore ('Lone Walker, Sunset'), desolate estuaries, woodland glades, lakes and verdant fields.

He works exclusively in watercolour with a detailed technique. Self-taught, Waj makes his own rules, which is perhaps why there is so much vitality and honesty in his work. He enjoys the uneasy alliance between the natural and the man-made: a tarmac road junction turned into a beautiful composition with the sun dappled grey on tarmac in the foreground against the lush blues, greens and purples behind ('Loveney's'). Only Waj would put in the patched tarmac: perfectly capturing present day reality for future generations as it is, because it's there, but still making it beautiful. There is often obvious humour, for example, a gas holder to counterpoint the picture postcard perfection of Lavenham ('Gas Holder, Lavenham') or a well executed stairwell and landing representing the historic timber framed Little Hall ('Stairwell, Little Hall Museum, Lavenham'). Indeed, the insistence of the banal and the modern as unavoidable intruders into our appreciation of nature is a hallmark of his work.

Waj deliberately uses bold elements in some of his paintings which sometimes appear not to conform to conventional principles of composition. The result initially feels uneasy to the viewer. Then you stop and look. For example, he will put a barbed wire fence in 'Fishing Lake' while in 'Hogweed and Willow Herb', the hogweed stands alone, forlorn, before the lush vegetation and colour of the willow herb. The hogweed initially looks out of place, not allowing the work to have that

'picture perfect' sense. He obviously wants to draw the viewer in by arresting their attention to what at first glance is a beautifully rendered image that somehow doesn't seem quite right – then as the viewer stops, he is drawn in to the detail, the composition, the subject matter – which reveals itself almost layer by layer. It is almost impossible to walk past one of his paintings – the viewer is compelled to stop and see what he has done and only then will the picture begin to reveal its secrets and make sense until finally, on the hogweed, you observe the small hover fly on the flower.

In water colours like 'Link Span, Harwich Pier' and 'Walberswick Pier and Moon' one appreciates the subtlety of Mirecki's work; and one can almost smell and feel the sea through gently breaking waves or gentle rivulets of water on the mud flats at low tide. The seascapes, estuarine mud flats and grasses take on the warm light hues of a summer sunset or moonlit night. Mirecki captures their atmospheres beautifully, imbuing such works with a sense of peace, and inviting reflection.

Waj's use of light is masterful. From a bright spring morning, to dusk on an estuary, you can feel the day he has painted – you know exactly the temperature, the feel of the wind, the colour of the sky. You don't just look at his paintings – you experience them.

There are several views capturing the beauty and tranquility of Chalkney Woods, particularly known for its wood anemones, local to the Mireckis and (along with the viaduct) a common theme for inspiration in his work. In 'Skirting the Puddle' we see Edna (Waj's wife and co-proprietor of the Chappel Galleries) on a bleak winter's afternoon walking down a muddy woodland track. Here one can almost imagine being there, the smell of mud and damp decaying leaves... thinking of being home by a warm fire. The reflections in the puddle show the artist's skill of accurate portrayal, the reflections of trees and sky perfectly rendered on the mirror surface.

Of course, no exhibition would be complete without Mirecki's beloved viaduct rising from the earth; a masterly feat of engineering and design. Surrounded by trees, lush foliage and grasses the painting eloquently expresses nature's relationship with the manmade. When it works, as it does here, it really works.

This exhibition represents the sort of quality painting one might expect from Waj. More importantly it captures and celebrates our superb English (East Anglian) countryside. Enjoy!

Dr Mark Curteis

Curator of Social History and Art, Chelmsford Museum
January 2014



Boardwalk and Boats, Tollesbury 2013 watercolour 75 x 75 cm £3,250





Wood Anemones, Chalkney Woods 2013 watercolour 50 x 75 cm £2,250





Public Footpath 2013 watercolour 34 x 22.5 cm £765



Wood Pile, Hoe Wood 2013 watercolour 85 x 71 cm £3,750





Walton Beach 2013 watercolour 62 x 100 cm £3,750



Salthouse, North Norfolk 2013 watercolour 30 x 45 cm £810



Water's Edge, Walberswick 2013 watercolour 30 x 45 cm £810



Lone Walker, Sunset 2013 watercolour 30 x 45 cm £810



Walberswick Pier and Moon 2013 watercolour 45 x 30 cm £810



Lightship, Tollesbury 2013 watercolour 65 x 45 cm £1,800



Tollesbury Seawall 2013 watercolour 18 x 50 cm £900



Mary Jane, North Norfolk 2013 watercolour 40 x 60 cm £1,450



Fishing Lake 2013 watercolour 52.5 x 35 cm £1,100



Skirting the Puddle, Chalkney Woods 2013 watercolour 68 x 45 cm
£1,850



Hogweed and Willow Herb 2013 watercolour 160 x 40 cm
£3,850



Fishing Lake II 2013 watercolour 52.5 x 35 cm £1,100





Cornfield 2013 watercolour 56 x 75 cm £2,500





Gas Holder, Lavenham 2013 watercolour 55.5 x 74 cm £2,500





Autumn 2013 watercolour 50 x 75 cm £2,250



WLADYSLAW MIRECKI

1956 Born Chelmsford, Essex of Polish parentage. He is self-taught, having painted all his life including his periods gaining his science degree at Kingston Polytechnic, London (1975-78); as an industrial designer and co-proprietor of Chappel Galleries (1986 – March 2010).

EXHIBITED:

1988 New English Art Club, Mall Galleries, London
1989 Epping Forest District Museum “Artists in Essex”
1989 Beecroft Art Gallery, Westcliffe on Sea, Essex 31st Open Exhibition
1990 Chappel Galleries, Essex Solo Exhibition
1991 Foyles Art Gallery, London
1992 Department of Transport Art Competition, Mall Galleries, London
1992 Deuxieme Salon Biennale de L'Aquarelle, Hirson, France (Chelmsford 1993)
1992 Essex County Council, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex – Commission
1996 Chappel Galleries, Essex 10th Anniversary Exhibition: Solo Exhibition
1997 Singer and Friedlander, Sunday Times Exhibition, London
1997 Beecroft Art Gallery, Essex: Open Exhibition
1998 Chappel Galleries, Essex: Solo Exhibition
1999 Jiangsu Provincial Art Gallery, Nanjing, China: Solo Exhibition
1999 Chappel Galleries, Essex Solo Exhibition
2002 Chappel Galleries, Essex Blyth Spirit “Walberswick Artists 1880-2000”
2003 Chappel Galleries, Essex: Solo Exhibition
2003 WH Pattersons, London Christmas Mixed Exhibition
2004 Royal Academy, London Summer Exhibition
2004 WH Pattersons, London Christmas Mixed Exhibition
2004 Dove's Barn, Suffolk
2006 Chappel Galleries, Essex: Solo Exhibition
2007 Royal Watercolour Society Open Competition, Bankside Gallery, London
2007 Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours, Mall Galleries, London
2007 Royal Society of British Artists Annual Exhibition Mall Galleries, London: Winner of the Edward Wesson Award.
2007 Beecroft Art Gallery, Westcliffe on Sea, Essex 49th Essex Open Exhibition: Awarded Prize and Shirley Robson Bowl for the best watercolour
2007 Chappel Galleries, Essex ‘Southwold, the East Coast’
2007 Sunday Times/Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander Watercolour Competition, The Mall Galleries, London: 3rd Prize Winner
2007 Lynn Painter-Stainers, London
2007 Chichester Open Art Exhibition, Chichester
2007 Royal West of England Academy 155th Autumn Exhibition, Bristol
2007 New English Art Club, The Mall Galleries, London
2008 RWS/Sunday Times Watercolour Competition, Bankside Gallery, London
2008 Lynn Painter-Stainers, London (third prize winner)
2009 Chappel Galleries, Essex: Solo Exhibition
2009 Lynn Painter-Stainers, London
2010 Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours 198th Annual Exhibition: The Mall Galleries, London
2010 Eastern Open, King's Lynn Arts Centre
2010 The Sunday Times Watercolour Competition's 23rd Year (2nd prize winner): The Mall Galleries, London

2010 Duncan Campbell Fine Art, London: Solo Exhibition
2011 Exhibition at Handelsbanken, Colchester; celebrating their new branch.
2011 Sunday Times/Smith Williamson Watercolour Competition 2011: The Mall Galleries, London
2011 Discerning Eye Exhibition: Mall Galleries, London
2012 Piers Feetham Gallery, London: Solo Exhibition
2012 Lyn Painter-Stainers, The Mall Galleries, London
2012 Chappel Galleries, Essex: Solo Exhibition
2012 Norwich Castle Open Art Show
2013 Chelmsford Borough Museum: Two Man Exhibition with Paul Rumsey
2013 Studio Eleven, Westcliff on Sea, Essex: ‘Kiss the Joy’ mixed exhibition curated by Ray Bass
2013 Royal Society of British Artist, Annual Exhibition: The Mall Galleries, London (invited artist)
2014 March 1st-30th Chappel Galleries, Essex: Solo Exhibition

COLLECTIONS:

1989 Essex County Council
1999 Jiangsu Province Art Museum, People's Republic of China
1999 Jiangsu Province Department of Culture, People's Republic of China
2000/09 Chelmsford Museums, Essex
2000 Ipswich Borough Council Museums & Galleries, Suffolk
2012 Colchester and Ipswich Museums (on behalf of Colchester Borough Council)

PUBLICATIONS:

2000 February Edition, Jiangsu Art Monthly
2000 April Edition, Artists & Illustrators Magazine
2003 ‘A Walk in the Country’: Introduction by Richard Scott – 32pp Monograph published by Chappel Galleries, Essex
2006 “Southwold: An Earthly Paradise” by Geoffrey Munn.
2006 Wladyslaw Mirecki at Fifty: Introduction by Simon Frazer – 32pp Monograph published by Chappel Galleries, Essex
2006 BBC Television Programme: ‘Seven Man-made Wonders of the East’ featuring Mirecki and his paintings of Chappel Viaduct
2009 ‘On My Doorstep’: Introduction by Laura Gascoigne published by Chappel Galleries, Essex
2009 The Spectator “Winter Fine Arts” by Andrew Lambirth November issue
2009 Jackdaw Magazine “Easel Words” May/June issue
2009 The Artist Magazine “Masterclass” November issue
2009 Pratique des Arts, France issue no. 89 November 2009 – feature.
2010 Duncan Campbell exhibition brochure: Introduction by Andrew Lambirth
2012 Jackdaw Magazine Jan/Feb 2012 page 36 : News ‘That Beckham Tattoo’
2012 ‘Closely Observed’ Landscape – East Anglia and Beyond: Introduction by Andrew Wilton published by Piers Feetham Gallery, London.
2012 Lynn Painter Stainers catalogue page 11 ‘Holme Valley, Yorkshire’
2012 ‘Around and About: Introduction by David Lee editor of ‘Jackdaw’ published Chappel Galleries, Essex
2014 “... just as it is...” Introduction by Mark Curteis, Curator, Chelmsford Museum. Published by Chappel Galleries, Essex



Hawthorn
2013 watercolour
75 x 50 cm
£2,250

Chappel Galleries Colchester Road
Chappel Essex CO6 2DE
01206 240326
email: info@chappellgalleries.co.uk
www.chappellgalleries.co.uk

