

PRESS RELEASE

ARTURO DI STEFANO, *PENTIMENTI*

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Arturo di Stefano's new body of work is entitled *Pentimenti*, a term in painting used to describe the re-appearance of erased lines in a drawing, or, in the case of a painting, the ghost of an image seen through earlier applied layers of paint. In this sense, a penitmento signifies a change of mind, or second thought.

Included in the recent paintings are old haunts revisited, for example, the Royal College of Art on Exhibition Road, London; the Art Academy in Turin, and the British School at Rome – all institutions that he has attended. Other paintings include places of art historical significance, such as 7 Rue des Grands Augustins, where Picasso painted *Guernica* and where Balzac set his famous story *The Unknown Masterpiece*. He has also painted the colonnade of the Doria Pamphili Gallery in Rome and the church of St Michael in East Coker where the ashes of T. S. Eliot are interred. These paintings develop the themes of his last Purdy Hicks exhibition *The Straits of Messina* (2004) – Memory, transience, the interplay of words and imagery through the agency of coloured matter, which, for him, confirms the primacy of painting as a means of interpreting the world. There will be a fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by the art historian Brendan Prendeville.

For images and further information please contact Purdy Hicks Gallery on +44 207 401 9229 or contact@purdyhicks.com