

Press Release



A Celebration of Elizabeth Bishop and her “home” village

A new series of six etchings with aquatint & watercolour by Tom Hammick

The **Elizabeth Bishop** series named after the American Poet Laureate (1949-50) and Pulitzer Prize winner (1956). Bishop is considered one of the most important and distinguished American poets of the 20th century.

The six prints show various scenes in and around Great Village, Nova Scotia, where Elizabeth Bishop House (see image left above), an artists retreat since 2004, has been dedicated to her memory. Effectively orphaned during her very early childhood, she lived with her grandparents in that house from 1915-17, before moving back to Massachusetts (she did return most summers until 1930). The period at Great Village is often referenced in her writing for example from "The Moose":

"on red, gravelly roads, down rows of sugar maples, past clapboard farmhouses and neat, clapboard churches"

In 1978 Bishop told Alexandra Johnson in an interview, "I've never felt particularly homeless, but, then, I've never felt particularly at home. I guess that's a pretty good description of a poet's sense of home." After 1930 Bishop returned to Great Village only occasionally (in 1946, 1947, 1951 and throughout the 1970s). But as she moved out into the world, she took her experiences of Great Village with her as touchstones. What Elizabeth Bishop carried within her was a vivid sense of space and time, shape and colour, a multi-dimensional perspective, a layered memory, which emerged first in Great Village, and which helped her navigate the world. Somewhere inside her mind, her childhood home, an "inscrutable house," endured as an aesthetic template, anchor and exemplar.

The prints (53 x 45cm) are in an edition variable of 25, see Fish House (pictured right above) after Bishop's poem "At the Fishhouses" (1955).

In July the Southbank Centre presents a new English translation of this monologue performance written by Marta Góes, about the life of Elizabeth Bishop,

ZIMMER STEWART GALLERY

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Tom Hammick

Tom Hammick studied at Manchester University (1982-85), and Camberwell School of Art, London (1987-92). He received a Winston Churchill Fellowship (1998), a Robert Fraser Award (1999) and was a prizewinner in The Sussex Open (2003) and also the Jerwood Prize in 2004. In 2009 he won the Monoprint Prize at Originals.

He was Artist in Residence on MV. Radnes, to the Artic Sea (1995); O.T. Unit, Royal London Hospital (1999) and Ballenglen Arts Foundation (1996); more recently at Glyndebourne in 2007, 9 & 10 and Charleston in 2008.

His solo shows include Holding, The Eagle Gallery, London; The Redfern Gallery, London; Terrestrial, Northern Print, Newcastle; Atlantic Provinces, Paul Kane, Dublin, Ireland and Studio 21, N.S. Canada. His work has been in many group shows including The Hunting Prize, Royal College of Art, London (1997,2002,2003,2004); Jerwood Drawing Prize (2000, 2001, 2004); The Royal Academy Summer Show (2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010).

His work is held in various public and private collections worldwide, including The British Museum, London; Yale Centre for British Art, Deutsche Bank; De Beers; ING Barings; Arthur Anderson; British Arts Council and The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Tom Hammick lives and works in East Sussex, UK and Nova Scotia, Canada.

For more information or images please contact James Stewart directly on 01903 885 867 or visit our website at <http://www.zimmerstewart.co.uk> select "Exhibitions" or "Artists" pages.

Tom Hammick's paintings are available from Emma Hill, The Eagle Gallery, London

The Zimmer Stewart Gallery

Founded in 2003, by James Stewart, the Zimmer Stewart Gallery shows contemporary art in many media by living British artists, well known and not so well known.

Their programme of eight exhibitions each year has built up a clientele covering the South East as well as London.

Late in 2009 they developed a print department, under the name ZS Editions, which also has it's own website (zsedititions.co.uk) where clients can browse and buy prints and other editions safely and securely online.

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