

THE MAYOR GALLERY
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PRESS RELEASE – 15th April 2011
For immediate release

WALLY HEDRICK & WILLIAM T. WILEY
8th June – 29th July 2011

PRIVATE VIEW Tuesday 7th June 2011 6 - 8pm in the presence
of William T. Wiley



Best known as Californian Funk artists, Wally Hedrick and William T. Wiley exhibit for the first time together in London, a selection of oils, acrylics and watercolours from 1974 to 2010.

Wally Hedrick (b. 1928 Pasadena, CA - d. 2003 Bodega Bay, CA), described himself as a ‘subjective realist’ when asked what sort of artist he was. Seeking to make something that squared with his own experience at the time the work was being made; he is credited with being the first American artist to make an anti-Vietnam work of art. All of Hedrick’s works being exhibited at the Mayor Gallery are from the time of Wally’s Fix-It Shop, a business he based on the assumption he could fix just about anything, having served as a radio engineer in the Korean War. His black paintings go back to his combined disgust with the war and an art world that seemed willfully oblivious to its moral depravity.

William T. Wiley (b. 1937 Bedford, IN) works being shown include those from the mid-1990’s when his work took a turn toward more somber subjects than previously approached. Art historically derived images that carry grave connotations and the appearance of cautionary political content pertaining to such things as global warming, environmental toxicity and, after 2001, military adventurism in the middle east became prevalent on his canvases. Wiley has always been an artist who was alive to the mood of his times. His watercolours, tend to be more dreamy and evanescent, but also concentrate on absurd construction and ironic wordplay. Wiley’s work was catapulted into the limelight of the art world of the late 1960s and 70s with his work being represented by prominent galleries in New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

Even as Wiley spent most of his career near the centre of the art world limelight, Hedrick spent most of his working years in a state of self-imposed obscurity. However, despite their varying levels of success, the work of both artists’ demonstrate strong similarities, not surprising given their friendship and mutual respect for each other’s work.

Each artist’s work is deeply personal, addressing their controversial views on contemporary life and politics. Their work also demonstrates a love for ironic word play and witty double entendres. Each was technically gifted in the use of many different kinds of artistic material, and when seen from the larger perspective of contemporary art history, each shows themselves to be well ahead of their time.

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Visitor Information

Mon-Fri 10am - 5.30pm; Sat 12pm - 3pm - Admission: Free
Nearest Tube Station: Green Park or Piccadilly Circus.