

OLIVIER CORNET GALLERY

1 The Wooden Building, Exchange Street Upper
Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Press Release

Adrienne Symes

'Low Tide at Varengenville'

February 20 to March 22

Private opening: 20 February 2013, 7pm

Guest speaker **Rosetta Beaugendre**

Head of Communications, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris

The Olivier Cornet Gallery is delighted to present 'Low Tide at Varengenville', an exhibition of new works by Adrienne Symes.

Varengenville-sur-Mer, the picturesque village close to the sea in the North of France near Dieppe, has always been an inspiration to many famed artists. George Braque, Joan Miró and Claude Monet, to mention but a few, all spent a very important time of their creative lives there.

Miró (1893-1983) began his 'Constellations' series of 23 paintings in Varengenville before having to leave in late 1940 when the Nazis started bombing Normandy. **George Braque** (1882-1963) set up a workshop in his house in Varengenville-sur-Mer in 1929 and spent most of his remaining life there. His tomb is held in the churchyard of Saint Valery, the famous clifftop church which boasts one of his stained-glass works, 'The Tree of Jesse'. The Chancel of the Church is bathed in the blue light diffused by an abstract stained glass window designed by the Belgian artist **Raoul Ubac** (1910-1985), a friend of George Braque's.

Claude Monet (1840-1926) also spent some time in Varengenville where he

produced a substantial body of work, amongst which one of his most famous paintings: 'Low Tide at Varengeville'.

'Low Tide at Varengeville' is also the title of Adrienne Symes's exhibition at the Olivier Cornet Gallery. The paintings on show were part of the exhibition 'Varengeville – Une Perspective Irlandaise' in Varengeville in August 2012 where Symes showed with other Irish artists including Mary Conliff, Gill Trapnell, Michael Wann and Lorraine West.

About Adrienne Symes

Water is a recurring theme in Symes's work, from the large-scale seascapes and seashores of the West of Ireland and other places, to the intimacy of a rock pool, a pond or a river bank. The mystery of distortions, reflections and shapes adds a certain meditative quality to the work.

Adrienne Symes is a graduate of the National College of Art and Design and Trinity College Dublin. She worked in advertising and was head of the art department in the King's Hospital for a number of years. She works in a variety of mediums including watercolour, painting, and sculpture. She is also a print-maker. Her botanical watercolours have been reproduced on china and fabrics for Sybil Connolly. Other work has been reproduced on a series of table mats depicting Georgian doors of Dublin.

Awards include first prize in fabric printing at the RDS and residency in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig. Among other places her work has been exhibited in the RHA, Oireachteas, Jorgensen Fine Art, Birr Castle, Alliance Francaise, Kilcock Art Gallery, Farmleigh (GSD 50TH Anniversary exhibition), VUE (The National Contemporary Art Fair), Graphic Studio Gallery, the OPW touring 'Elements' exhibition last year, and the **Olivier Cornet Gallery**. Her work was also selected for 'Drawing Eire in China'.

She was an invited artist for "Bog 50 x 70" celebrating the 10th anniversary of Leinster Printmakers. Symes is a Member of the Graphic Studio Dublin and

also a former board member. She is also Council member of the Contemporary Irish Art Society.

The exhibition will run from 20 February – 22 March 2013.

To view some of the paintings that will feature in the show and to read more about the artist visit <http://www.oliviercornetgallery.com/#/adrienne-symes/4562676392>

Gallery opening hours:

Tuesday - Saturday: 11 am to 6 pm

(till 8 pm on Thursdays)

Sunday: 12 noon to 5 pm

And by appointment, Mondays closed.

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