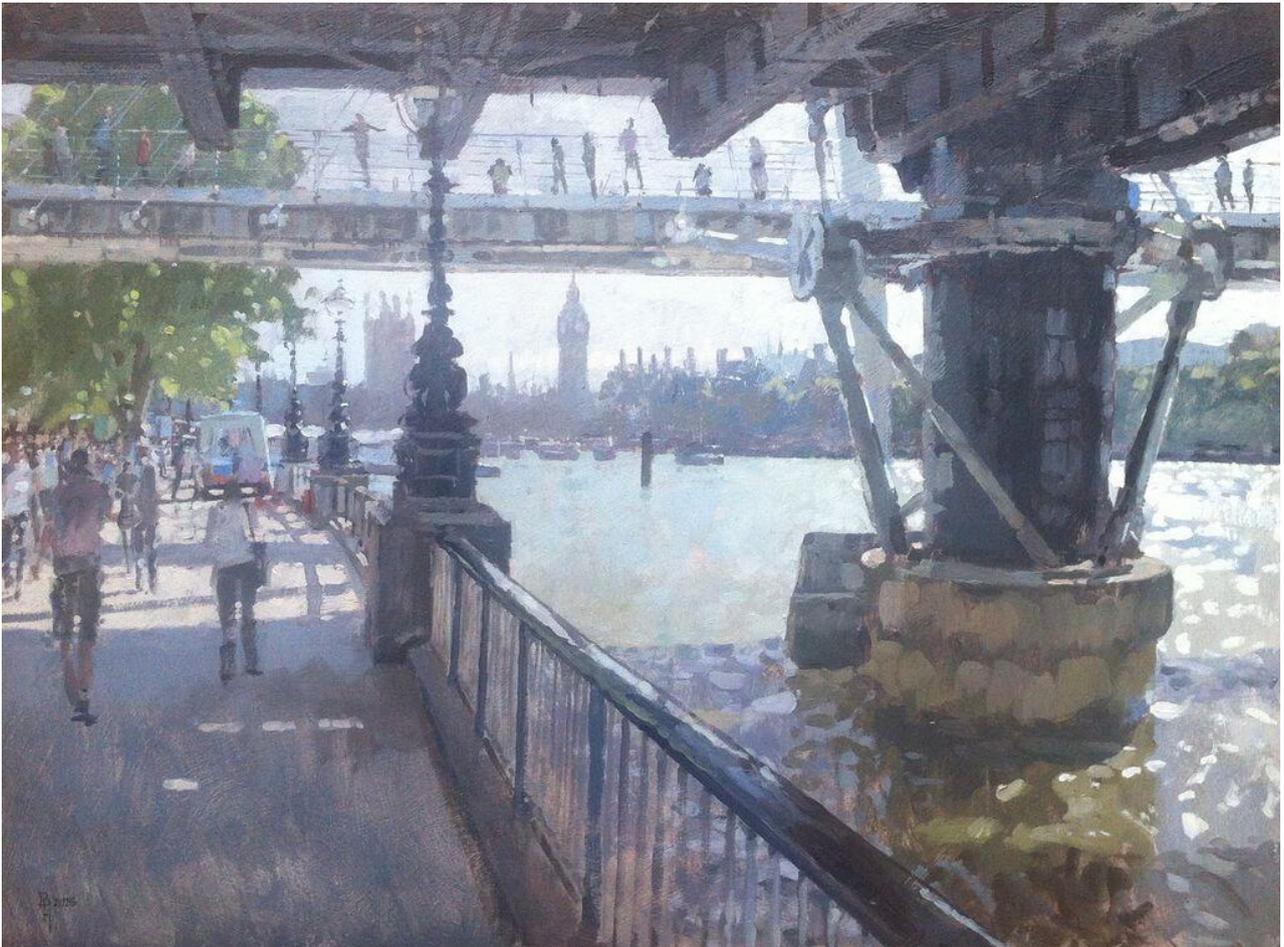




**PRIZE-WINNING PAINTER BENJAMIN HOPE PRESENTS
DEBUT SOLO EXHIBITION**

OBSERVATIONS



Under Hungerford, Benjamin Hope

AT NEWLY LAUNCHED JP ART GALLERY IN LONDON

12 – 25 NOVEMBER 2015

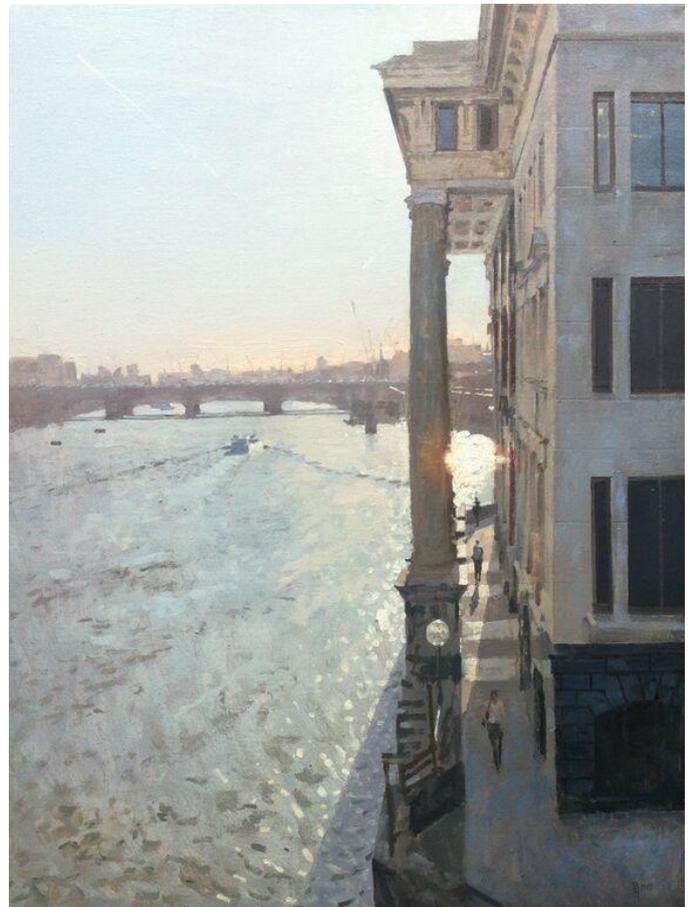
London. September 1, 2015. JP Art Gallery is delighted to announce a debut exhibition of works by award-winning painter Benjamin Hope. Benjamin is often spotted painting with his easel on the streets of London, a scene that is in complete contrast to four years ago, when he spent long hours in an office creating mathematical models for an investment bank. His story is one of passion and determination, as he pursued a financial career in order to facilitate his long-term vocation - painting.



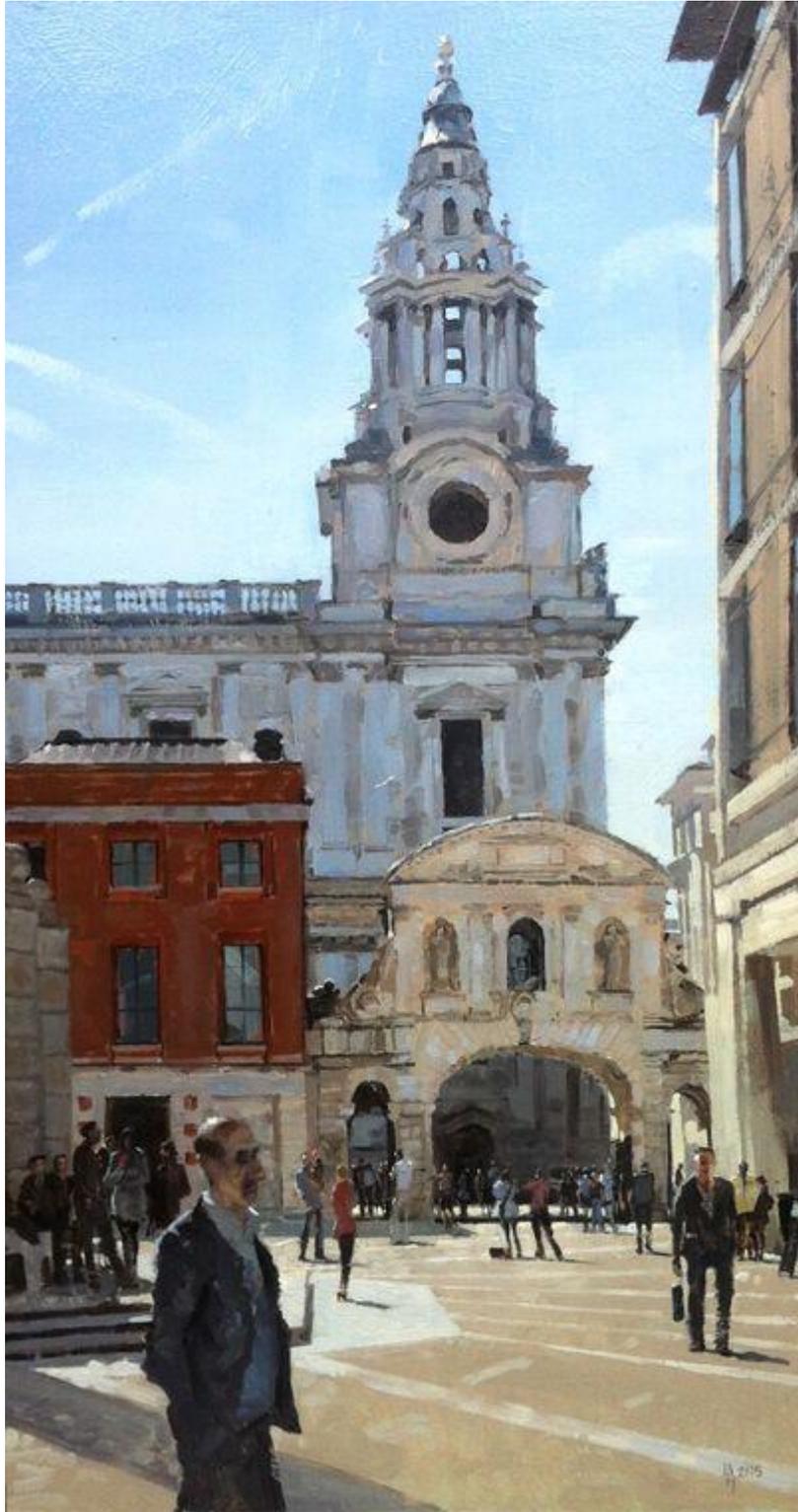
Teacups in the Financial Times, Benjamin Hope

Aside from awards such as First Prize at the Pintar Rapido Plein Air Painting Festival and Runner Up prize at the Lynn Painter Stainers Exhibition 2014, Benjamin was selected for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2013 with his painting *Teacups in the Financial Times* and was subsequently selected for the annual open shows of The Royal Institute of Oil Painters, The Pastel Society, The Royal Society of British Artists, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the New English Art Club. He was also commissioned by Oxford University's Bodleian Library to paint a still-life commemorating their 400th anniversary.

Benjamin was approached to hold a debut exhibition by the highly reputed art consultant and gallerist Joanne Parker, whose successful pop-up art gallery series recently culminated in the launch of her permanent new gallery space: *JP Art Gallery* in London's Battersea.



Evening Sun from Southwark Bridge, Benjamin Hope



Paternoster Square, Benjamin Hope

With her forte in pre-empting art trends and seeking out the most talented emerging artists, Joanne is proud to present Benjamin's first show as the launch exhibition at her new venue from **12 – 25 November 2015**.

With an exciting solo exhibition schedule planned comprising top selling artists, Joanne sees Benjamin's work as a front-runner in contemporary art. With a fresh approach and inimitable skill in capturing a strong visual sense of what is around him, it is not surprising that he has already caught the attention of many an art critic.

Benjamin's first exhibition *Observations* refers to his method of painting. His outdoor paintings featuring areas such as Kings Cross, Clapham Junction, Blackheath and Southwark Bridge, amongst others, are created quickly and in an impressionistic style in order to capture the essence of what he sees.

He works directly from life, finding this the only way to get that exciting sense of immediacy and capture his experience of the subject. He is influenced by the light, atmosphere, crowds or reflections that he sees and it is this trigger that he focuses on, in order to transport us, the viewer beyond the canvas, to respond to what we are seeing through Benjamin's own experience and recreation of each place.



Flour and Eggs, Benjamin Hope

Benjamin is also a master of the still-life, with works such as *Flour and Eggs* (above) and the aforementioned *Teacups in the Financial Times*, exhibited at The Royal Academy. His representations take us with him to witness exactly what he sees. His precision and detailed accuracy is undoubtedly attributed to his chosen field of study of Mathematics and Physics, which culminated in a PhD from Cambridge University. Benjamin's method of creating everyday objects in oil on canvas, breaks the boundaries of the tradition of the classic still life. He intuitively adds a refreshing twist to the genre, as the viewer can enjoy the attention to detail, the lifelike objects and the interesting composition, yet can also see the works as contemporary expressions of life today.

The exhibition will also show some of Benjamin's portraiture, including his *Self Portrait with Palette*. Discussing his portrait work Benjamin says: "Portraiture has an extra level significance for me owing to a long-held interest in the Philosophy of Mind. I am only happy with a portrait if I can really sense there is human agency on the canvas—and not just any: a specific person."



Self Portrait, Benjamin Hope

Whilst Benjamin's paintings have been included individually in many major exhibitions, *Observations* will be the first time they have all appeared together.

Commenting on this, gallerist Joanne Parker said: "It is a real privilege having this opportunity to work closely with Benjamin for his debut solo. Plus quite fascinating really to observe in the region of 80 paintings, requiring a highly disciplined process, gradually coming together for this exhibition.

Alongside being one of our top selling artists, our clients really enjoy meeting Benjamin and hearing about his practice.

This will be an extremely exciting exhibition which underpins the gallery's ethos to nurture and make art accessible to everyone".

ENDS

JP Art Gallery

18 Battersea Rise

London

SW11 1EE

Opening Hours:

Closed: Mondays

Tues, Wed, Fri: 11 – 5 pm

Thurs: 12 – 8 pm

Weekends & Bank Holidays: 10 – 6 pm

Gallery enquiries:

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Notes to Editors:

The exhibition *Observations* by Benjamin Hope will run from 12 – 25 November, 2015. Press access beforehand is possible and interviews/ images available.

About JP Art Gallery & Consultancy

The business was established in 1996 in South Africa by Joanne Parker who has a background in designing and manufacturing custom made fine furniture. In 2001, Joanne moved back to the UK and opened her first gallery in London's art hub, Hoxton, Shoreditch which specialised in Contemporary South African Art and Design.

JP Art Gallery launched this summer 2015 due to popular demand. Joanne Parker had developed a pop-up series of art exhibitions across London and the success of that led her to opening a permanent venue in London's Battersea. Her key aim is to create "an accessible, unintimidating, friendly space to view and buy fine art. Sourcing the right new artists to join the gallery is key, via recommendation, visiting graduate shows and open studio events across the country. Keeping the gallery accessible for both the artist and buyer underpins the ethos of the gallery and will hopefully prove to be a winning method, enjoyed by all."

JP Art Gallery will curate a regularly rotating exhibition, to introduce new contemporary artworks on a fortnightly basis. These will include a diverse collection across genres: abstracts, landscapes, figurative, sculpture and limited edition prints, with prices ranging from £200 - £850 for prints or paintings and sculpture from £500 to £15,000.

* Full biography of Benjamin Hope and Joanne Parker available on request

* Full launch press release on the new gallery also available on request