

***BENEATH THE SURFACE*****TERRY SETCH (RA)**

**Flowers Gallery, Kingsland Road, London  
12 June – 12 July, 2014**



Terry Setch, *Fossil Beach*, 2013, 61 x 124 cm

LONDON. March 19th, 2014. An exhibition by Royal Academician Terry Setch will be the highlight of the exhibition calendar at Flowers in London this Spring, when a range of his works go on view at their Kingsland Road gallery from 12th June - 12th July, 2014. The exhibition will feature several publicly unseen pieces, which will present a diversion from his usual techniques and themes.

Among the majority of Setch's large scale works will be those themed around the coast near Penarth in Wales, where Setch is based. These works act as a witness to his surroundings, in the literal sense via the materials he uses and the layers he creates within them, but also in the wider issues his art works often raise.

Setch is well-known for utilizing varying materials in his analysis and interpretation of the conflict between nature and society. His huge painted canvases are often augmented with materials and debris found on the beach, a combination of both man-made and natural matter. This contrast in itself creates a tension, raising questions on pollution, mankind's apathy, the forces of nature in the weathered objects, inadvertently representative of demise. This juxtaposes the notion that there is new life in the objects used to create such histrionic representations of the world around us.

Setch's polygonal subject matter enables the onlooker to fully experience the world created within it, via the use of textured materials; such as encaustic wax, melted plastic and polypropylene, however it is not through realism, as his works



Terry Setch, *Storm*, 2013, 61 x 84 cm

require the viewer to suspend disbelief in order to fully experience what each piece evokes for them.

The artist's new, more abstract pieces appear to present a fresh vision of the world, a return to innocence and a sense of rebirth, alongside good and bad progression of humankind. There is a subtext of realization where from personal experience, Setch touches on humanity, freedom of convention, open thought and active reaction. The themes are more contemporary, yet recurring, always containing a thread of reinvention, as they throw up age-old theories and predicaments, but show how society views and deals with them differently today, some never to be solved and others progressing towards a solution. There is hope in these works, but also an acceptance of what is, and is not, humanly possible.



Terry Setch, *Rock Pool I*, 2013, 61 x 79 cm

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### Notes to Editors

The private view for this exhibition will be on Wednesday 11th June, 6-8pm and we would be delighted for you to attend. Please RSVP should you wish to come, to [sandie@flowersgallery.com](mailto:sandie@flowersgallery.com) Please do not print details of the private view in your publication, as it is 'invitation only' to the public.

### About Terry Setch, RA, RWA

Born in London in 1936, Terry Setch studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, London. While at college took part in the Young Contemporaries exhibitions in 1957, 1959 and 1960 in the RBA Galleries, London. In June 1964 he became Senior Painting lecturer at Cardiff College of Art. Setch was elected as a Royal Academician in 2009.

In 1964 Setch moved to Penarth in Wales. The new surroundings fuelled the evolution of his work. New abstract paintings are fed with beach detritus, creating a fusion between synthetic and natural materials. Daily trips to Penarth beach collecting flotsam and jetsam rejected by the estuary's tide are then combined with more traditional media such as oil paint, coloured wax or naturally sourced kaolin.

"I have been using the pollution of the local beach, particularly the plastic detritus, as my major subject since the mid-1970s, long before concern about the damage caused by the ubiquitous, non-biodegradable plastic became widespread in this country."

### About Flowers

Angela Flowers established her first gallery in 1970 on Lisle Street in London's West End. In the 1980s, the gallery was one of the first to open in London's East End, in a former laundry/fur storage facility in Hackney, and the space became known as Flowers East. Matthew Flowers, Angela's son, took over day to day operations in 1989. In 1997, the gallery expanded further with a Los Angeles space, at Bergamot Station.

There are now two gallery spaces in London: a West End premises on Cork Street opened in 2000 and in 2002 the gallery moved from Hackney into a 12,000 sq foot industrial space in Shoreditch, East London. The US business relocated in 2003 from LA to New York on Madison Avenue, and then in 2009 moved to West 20th street in Chelsea.

Flowers participates regularly in art fairs internationally. The programme in both the UK and US comprises all media by established and emerging artists. The gallery is an active publisher of prints and multiples with a growing department in contemporary international photography.