

*Press Release:*

## **CHARLIE BILLINGHAM**

### **HUNTING DOGS, HUNTING CATS**

*PRIVATE VIEW: 6.30-9PM, WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012*

**15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 – 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013**

*GREAT FOSTERS HOTEL  
STROUDE ROAD, EGHAM, SURREY TW20 9UR  
OPENING HOURS: 10AM-6PM DAILY*

Marcelle Joseph Projects proudly presents *Hunting Dogs, Hunting Cats*, the first solo exhibition of paintings by English artist Charlie Billingham. With a touch of humour, Billingham's paintings parody caricatures of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century political and social satirists, such as James Gillray and George Cruikshank. The main subjects of Billingham's works are often minor characters and animals from the referenced cartoons, cropped and enlarged and portrayed in splashy colour combinations. For the viewer, this medley of perspective, composition and colour illicit playful surprise and offers a contemporary portrayal of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century subjects. For this series of twelve oil on canvas paintings, Billingham depicts images of dogs and cats inspired by his stay at Great Fosters, a historic hunting lodge, earlier this year and referencing paintings and engravings done by George Stubbs in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Sir Edwin Henry Landseer, RA in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

When asked about his colour choices, Charlie says, 'I look out for colour combinations in my day to day life which appeal to me, and then use them in my paintings; these are often from clothes I've seen people wear, interiors in magazines, colours in other people's paintings and artworks, food, TV, etc.'

Born in 1984 in the UK, **Charlie Billingham** has been living and working in London since 2008, the year he finished his joint BA Art History/MA Fine Arts degree at the Edinburgh College of Art. Charlie is currently a third-year post-graduate student at the Royal Academy Schools in London. His works have been exhibited at group shows in 2012 at the Premiums Interim Projects show, Royal Academy, London; ROOM Gallery, London; New End Gallery, London and Liquid Courage Gallery, Nassau, Bahamas; and in 2011 at Aubin Gallery, London, the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy and the Café Gallery at the Royal Academy. His second solo show in the UK will take place in November 2013 at the Ceri Hand Gallery.

**Great Fosters** has been the splendid home to many an English nobleman with regal connections, and was once a hunting lodge for King Henry VIII, and his daughter Elizabeth, whose royal crest can still be found above the main porch, dated 1598. The majestic property continued to change hands throughout history, before becoming a hotel in 1930. For more information, see [www.greatfosters.com](http://www.greatfosters.com).

## Notes to Editors

*HUNTING DOGS*, *HUNTING CATS* is presented by Marcelle Joseph Projects. Founded in 2011, Marcelle Joseph Projects is a roving contemporary art projects company devoted to promoting contemporary art in different venues or found spaces across the United Kingdom. The core activity of this commercial venture is to showcase contemporary work of emerging to mid-career international artists who work in a variety of media. Marcelle Joseph Projects has mounted five exhibitions in 2012. For more information, go to [www.marcellejoseph.com](http://www.marcellejoseph.com) or email on [info@marcellejoseph.com](mailto:info@marcellejoseph.com) or call on 07971 580 572.

## Visitor Information

Opening hours: 10am – 6pm daily.

## Directions

### By Car:

**Travelling south (anti-clockwise) on the M25:** Exit the M25 at junction 13. Go straight over the roundabout, as if re-joining the M25. Keep in the left hand lane, signposted A30 Egham.

**Travelling north (clockwise) on the M25:** Exit the M25 at junction 13. Turn right at the roundabout, as if re-joining the M25 to go south. Keep in the left hand lane, signposted A30 Egham and continue towards Egham town centre.

At the end of the slip road under the motorway bridge, turn first left at the large roundabout into The Avenue. Turn left at the mini roundabout (police station on the left) into Vicarage Road. Continue over the railway lines to the roundabout at the end. Turn right at the roundabout into New Wickham Lane and continue over the M25 motorway. Turn left at the next roundabout into Stroude Road and Great Fosters is approx 500 yards on the left handside.

**Directions from the A30:** From Bagshot to Staines on the A30, turn right at the traffic lights by the Wheatsheaf Pub and Laithwaites into Christchurch Road. Continue over the roundabout and past 2 parades of shops on the right. Turn left at the traffic lights into Stroude Road. Great Fosters is approximately three quarters of a mile on the right hand side.

### By Rail:

Any rail service to Egham Station. Although the hotel is only 15 minutes walk from the station, we advise you take a taxi. Egham Taxis 01784 433 933; Gemini Cars 01784 471 111; Runnymede Taxi 01784 53 53 53.

## Enquiries:

Marcelle Joseph Projects

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