

PRESS RELEASE:

05 February 2010

FLOWERS FOR MAGGIE'S

John Martin Gallery hosts an exhibition of paintings by Penny White in aid of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres with an aim to raise £50,000

Press and private view: Tuesday 30th March 2010, 6 - 8pm

Exhibition dates: Wednesday 31st March - 10th April 2010
(closed for Easter 2-5th April)

Location: John Martin Gallery, 38 Albemarle Street, London W1S

This spring John Martin Gallery will house an exhibition of extraordinary, vibrant flower paintings by Hammersmith artist Penny White, in aid of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres.

Maggie's programme of support empowers people to live with, through and beyond cancer and is available to anyone affected by cancer as well as their family and friends. Exactly a year ago, Maggie's Chief Executive Laura Lee suggested to Penny White that she might like to look at the recently opened Maggie's London Centre, with a view to showing some of her work there.

For Penny White, "the warm welcome given in the glowing orange centre, which is surrounded by Dan Pearson's innovative garden, encapsulates Maggie's 'joy of living' ethos and epitomizes optimism over despondency." Upon realising that a centre of such excellence was totally reliant on private funding, Penny White was determined to organise an exhibition of her work and raise money for this remarkable charity. Laura Lee says, "We are delighted that Penny White has chosen to generously support Maggie's through her 'Flowers for Maggie's' exhibition. Her uplifting and colourful paintings are inspirational and invoke a sense of joy in those who view them." Aided by art adviser, Polly Robinson Gaer, the John Martin Gallery was approached and the date set.

John Martin has generously gifted his gallery space in Mayfair, and between 30th March - 10th April 2010 Penny White will exhibit a superb selection of large watercolour paintings, donating the first £5,000 of sales and thereafter half of all sales directly to the charity.

These stunning paintings, featuring roses, irises, poppies, anemones and tulips, stand alone in the current art scene and are in equal measure both intensely accurate observations and abstract contemplative images, with starting prices of £3,000.

Penny will also produce a special limited edition of 50 signed prints to celebrate the exhibition. The print will be available on order from the exhibition and all of the proceeds on all unframed sales will be gifted to Maggie's. An artist's proof can be previewed at Maggie's London Centre in Lord Richard Roger's award-winning building in the grounds of Charing Cross Hospital.

This will be the first West End art exhibition held to support the charity which is celebrating the second birthday of its London centre in April.

Penny White hopes to raise as much as £50,000 and the John Martin Gallery would like to extend an open invitation for the private view on Tuesday 30th March. John Martin: "We are absolutely delighted to be involved in this project in support of the wonderful work at Maggie's and their new centre."

Please join us for the press & private view evening on TUESDAY 30th MARCH 6-8pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Pippi Reader at Maggie's on 020 7386 1753 or email pippi.reader@maggiescentres.org

For more information on the Flowers for Maggie's exhibition, please visit the following websites:

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres www.maggiescentres.org/londonfundraising

Penny White www.pennywhite.net John Martin Gallery www.jmlondon.com

For further press information and images:

Penny White: 0208 741 3691 / 07881 991 660 / paintings@pennywhite.net

Pippi Reader at Maggie's: 020 7386 1753/ 07554 401 329/ pippi.reader@maggiescentres.org

Notes to editors:

1. Penny White, Artist

Penny White studied Fine Art at Reading University in the sixties under the tutelage of such notables as Sir Terry Frost and Claude Rogers. Starting out as an abstract colourist, her obsession with colour developed almost unconsciously towards an absorption of flowers, this coincided with her move from Suffolk to London in '89.

Since this time Penny White has strived to paint the very essence of flowers, 'I try to paint the flower's soul, the scent, the colour, the patterns, the eroticism, their transitory being. My biggest compliment was when a child came into my studio and sniffed at a recent painting of roses and said, 'I can't smell them!'. The paintings are large watercolours, often made up from separate squares and then floated across the entire surface.

In the summer of 2009, the fragrant English roses sold in the London farmers' markets by the growers for the Real Flower Company and the 'picking bed' at Petersham Nursery full of tulips provided two new sources of inspiration for Penny White. The work based on these can be seen alongside the velvety colours and markings of the iris, the poppy and the anemone.

For further information contact Penny White on 0208 741 3691 or email paintings@pennywhite.net

2. Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres

- There are currently six Maggie's Centres across the UK – Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Highlands, Fife and London. There are three Interim Centres – Oxford, South West Wales and Lanarkshire
- Centres are planned for the sites of the three interim Centres and in Cotswolds, North East, Nottingham, and a second centre in Glasgow
- Maggie's Centres are free to visit, no appointment is necessary and they are for anyone affected by any type of cancer as well as their family and friends
- Maggie's London Centre was designed by Rogers, Stirk Harbour + Partners and won the RIBA Sterling prize for architectural excellence in October 2009.
- Maggie's London has received more than 20,000 visits since opening in April 2008.
- Maggie's model of support has been so successful that it is being taken forward in Hong Kong, Barcelona and Scandinavia

For further information on Maggie's, visit www.maggiescentres.org, contact Pippi Reader on 020 7386 1753 / 07554 401 329 or email pippi.reader@maggiescentres.org.

3. John Martin Gallery

Established by John Martin in 1992, John Martin of London is an independent commercial gallery located at 38 Albemarle Street in the heart of Mayfair.

The Gallery specialises in Contemporary British and Irish Painting and Sculpture, and represents over 25 Artists, including John Caple, Melita Denaro, Andrew Gifford, David Martin, Leon Morrocco, and Olivia Musgrave.

Running an annual exhibition programme that includes 8-9 large-scale solo exhibitions and 2-3 group shows, the Gallery also attends Art London, Chelsea and the London Art Fair.

For further information please contact Ruth or Rose on 020 7499 1314 / info@jmlondon.com, or visit the gallery website www.jmlondon.com