

Agent Morton

Presents

Damian Elwes

Heart Land

Agent Morton Limited, Upper and Lower Gallery, 32 Dover Street, London W1S 4NE

20 June – 29 July, 2011



River Spirit, 2011, mixed media on canvas, 107 x 107 cm

Following its successful opening in spring 2011, Agent Morton will launch a new series of works by British painter Damian Elwes. *Heart Land*, on show from 20th June – 29th July 2011, is testament to Elwes' life as an artist. From making rubbings of cave drawings in the Sahara in the early eighties, to spray-painting abandoned buildings in New York and exhibiting alongside Haring and Basquiat, his style has clearly been influenced by a succession of diverse experiences.

Elwes has become one of the most celebrated British artists of his time. His collectors include the likes of Sir Anthony Hopkins, Sir Mick Jagger, Steve Wynn, Pierce Brosnan, Al Pacino, Jim Carrey and Jodie Foster. He has had a string of successful exhibitions worldwide, showing his work in London, Los Angeles and New York. His last four shows in London were sold out.

Elwes' new body of work celebrates women and their connection with nature. His meditations on the parity of women and nature as sources of life result from the seven years he spent living with his wife on the edge of a Colombian rainforest. Concerned about the devastation in the Amazon region, he became determined to record this "untouched Eden". He began to paint dioramas of the forest

in an attempt to express our connection to the natural world. Observing his wife's immersion into this new environment, it occurred to him that women are so fundamentally connected to nature.

"In his paintings for *Heart Land*, there is no background or foreground; women are made from nature and nature from women. The eyes are closed, the women are dreaming. For Elwes, as for the rainforest Indians, women and nature are fully integrated, and he found he could not paint one without the other. Using the foliage from the volcanic plateau that continues to provide rich inspiration, Elwes wants us to know that he is not just painting any aspect of nature: this is a place of life and death, the birthplace of Eve."

Sophie Hastings Leris

Damian Elwes was born in 1960, the second son of interior designer [Tessa Kennedy](#) and British [portrait painter Dominick Elwes](#). He is the grandson of [Simon Elwes](#) RA, who was a favourite artist of the [Queen Mother's](#). He attended [Harrow School](#) in England and then Harvard University. It was here that he met Andy Warhol and began studying photography, poetry and modern theatre. As a graduation present his professor gave him a palette knife that once belonged to Matisse. This served as a huge motivation for Elwes. After graduating he indulged in his passion for traveling, all the while teaching himself many techniques and gathering inspiration. Since then Elwes has had a series of sell out shows around the world and is now one of the best known artists in Los Angeles, where he lives with his wife Lewanne and two children.

Notes to Editors

Agent Morton

Agent Morton was founded by Serena Morton in April 2008 to support and promote contemporary artists. The business was born from her lifelong love of art. She combines her expertise, a keen eye and a sound understanding of the art market with her continued intention to nurture and advise artists. Prior to Agent Morton she worked at Christie's, curated temporary exhibitions and directed galleries in Mayfair and Fitzrovia.

In Spring 2011, Serena was joined in the business by two established entrepreneurs, Marcus Yeoman and Barney Battles, with a strong track record of supporting creative and media related ventures. Their mission is to support Serena's creative vision.



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