

Press contact: Clare Roberts
clare@melsonpr.co.uk 07899 065 088

The Alan Cristea Gallery at
31&34 Cork St London W1S 3NU
Telephone +44(0)20 7439 1866
Facsimile +44(0)20 7439 1874
Email: info@alancristea.com
Website: www.alancristea.com

VICKEN PARSONS: HERE

23 February until 24 March 2012, Alan Cristea Gallery, London

*“Like haiku poems, Vicken Parsons’ small paintings articulate form, image and atmosphere to generate a profound visual and psychic impact. They are at once painterly, sculptural and architectonic.” Iwona Blazwick, 2005**



London – In early 2012 the Alan Cristea Gallery will present the first solo show in London for over twelve years of the British born artist, Vicken Parsons. The show will consist of around twenty new works and will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with introduction by leading psychoanalyst and writer Darian Leader. Parsons makes small, intimate paintings of landscape and architectural spaces which move from figuration to abstraction with quiet ease. Made with thin layers of oil paint on thick plywood panel, the works have a three-dimensional, object-like

quality. Often grey or monochrome, the paintings are sometimes hit with a flash of colour, of cornflower blue, bright white or electric yellow which almost seems to fluoresce. At times, however, they simply retreat into deep, dark corners.

*‘In their jewel-like scale, their tentative yet dynamic surface and their Vermeer-like suggestion of darkness and light, Vicken Parsons’ paintings hover between a palpable sense of the here and now, and a fantastical and poetic evocation of the life of the mind.’**

The movement between the real and the imagined, the concrete and the abstract makes you want to stand in front of a Parsons painting and linger. You may leave with more questions than answers (where am I? Is that a horizon? If I turn that corner can I escape?), but you will, without a doubt, want to return.

This London show follows solo exhibitions at the Galerie Christine Koenig, Vienna (2008 and 2005), the New Art Centre, Salisbury (2006) and Tate St Ives (2002), with group exhibitions including shows at Southampton City Art Gallery (2010), the Art Depot, London (2010), Tate Modern (2004), Art Futures, (2007), Kunsthalle Mannheim (2004-5) and the Whitechapel Gallery, London (2004). Born in 1957, Parsons studied at the Slade School of Fine Art and lives and works in London.

*From exhibition catalogue, Vicken Parsons Your Light, at the Galerie Christine Koenig, Vienna, 2005

Notes to Editors:

One of the leading commercial contemporary galleries in Europe, the Alan Cristea Gallery is the primary representative for a number of established international contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists. The gallery opened at 31 Cork Street in 1995 and since then has expanded to a second exhibition space at 34 Cork Street, with both galleries showing a continuous programme of exhibitions including contemporary paintings, works on paper, sculpture and installations. In addition, the gallery is known for its commitment to original prints and editions, commissioning and facilitating innovative projects by outstanding artists, and is the largest publisher of contemporary editions and prints in Europe. Recently the gallery has commissioned new work by Christiane Baumgartner, Ian Davenport, Jim Dine, Ben Johnson, Julian Opie, Mimmo Paladino, Richard Woods and Catherine Yass. Forthcoming projects include Gillian Ayres, Dexter Dalwood, Edmund de Waal, Jan Dibbets, Howard Hodgkin, Vicken Parsons and Lisa Ruyter.

Title: VICKEN PARSONS: HERE
Address: Alan Cristea Gallery: 31&34 Cork Street, London W1
Telephone: +44 (0) 207 439 1866
Website: www.alancristea.com
Dates: 8 Oct – 12 Nov; 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-2pm Sat
Admission: Free
Travel: Piccadilly, Green Park or Bond Street Tubes

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