

SARAH STITT
metropolis

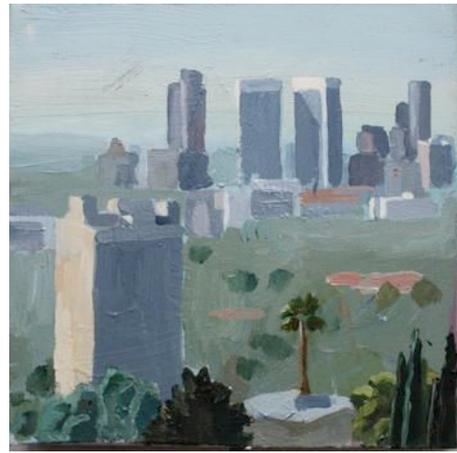
Private view: 8 June

Exhibition: 9 June – 2 July

gallery opening times: tues. – fri. 10 – 5.30

sat. 11 – 2

Nearest tube: pimlico



English painter Sarah Stitt's show "Metropolis" is her second solo exhibition since she moved her family to Los Angeles in 2006, when her husband became a staff writer on American Network TV's Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson.

Initially, she found the change a huge wrench, especially the loss of her London studio. She gradually came to terms with her new life by embracing the local landscape there.

In this new body of work she captures the essence of modern California and other side of the American dream. By way of contrast she touches on memories of London – a more subdued theme.

The LA paintings show art deco earthquake-proof buildings, and deserted streets. She pays particular attention to the endless billboards, gas stations, seedy motels, and flashing neon that dominates every skyline. The pollution and the fading light conspire for half an hour of each day to render the ugliest of modern buildings suddenly photogenic.

In addition to the urban facades, Stitt explores the grand beauty of the California landscape, from the San Gabriel Mountains, across the Mojave Desert to the Pacific Ocean. These landscapes are all painted from life. Her approach to each work is to drive around and park up when struck by a scene that inspires her.

Offset against these brazen images are her memories of London. The muted colours, lowering skies and antiquated buildings examine a different kind of beauty. The stillness of the Thames and the quiet dignity of an old city is played off against the sometimes screaming vibrancy of Los Angeles.

Stitt's portraits focus on a range of people in her immediate sphere from a Guatemalan grandmother to her own children.

Artist's statement: Having lived in California for 5 years now it has begun to feel like it is home. I have become used to its stark light, its strange ways and inhabitants. I am still excited by its huge and varied landscape and feel fortunate to have such easy access to it. The people and Hispanic underclass have great stories to tell of their arrival in America and the difficulties they have overcome to get there. England now seems exotic to me. On my few trips back it has felt like I have seen the beauty of its small streets for the first time.

Please contact Emma Wingfield or Sarah Long for further information.

L O N G & R Y L E
4 JOHN ISLIP STREET LONDON, SW1P 4PX
tel 020 7834 1434 fax 020 7821 9409
longandryle.com gallery@long-and-ryle.com