DHRUVA MISTRY

6—20 May 2011

Grosvenor Vadehra

DHRUVA BRONZES MISTRY 1987–1990

Cover Seated Figure (detail)

1988 – 1990 Bronze Cast in an edition of 5 21.5 x 13 x 20 cm (8.4 x 5.1 x 7.8 in)

Inside cover Woman (Study for River) (detail)

1988 - 1990 Bronze Edition 1 of 5 21.7 x 25.1 x 17.5 cm (8.4 x 9.8 x 6.8 in) 6-20 May 2011

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Grosvenor Vadehra is proud to present an exhibition of bronze sculptures by Dhruva Mistry from the collection of Nigel Greenwood. These include important works that the artist made while living in London from 1987-1990.

As with all of Mistry's work there is a meeting of two cultures, on one hand the European Modernism and on the other the Indian Classical and other traditions. Both the currents are assimilated in this brilliant sculptor and the results are evident in his work.

This is largely due to Mistry's life between India, Britain and the West. Born 1957 in Gujarat, India, he began exhibiting his works while he was still a student at the University of Baroda in 1974. He was awarded the British Council scholarship to attend the Royal College of Art in London in 1981. The alumni of Royal College included well-known artists such as Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, David Hockney and R. B. Kitaj. Here Mistry met and integrated into the next generation of artists who went on to dominate art scene in London in the late 1980s.

Following the RCA Mistry was an artist in residence at Kettle's Yard Gallery, Cambridge, where he was exposed to the works by British Modernists such as Gaudier Breszka, Jacob Epstein, Ben Nicholson and Henry Moore. He incorporated some of their ideas and interests in his sculpture. During this time Mistry was exhibiting in various group shows. It was then that Nigel Greenwood met him and included his work in *A Journey through Contemporary Art* at the Hayward Gallery, London in 1985. This Hayward



Dhruva Mistry, The River, bronze, 1991-93, The City Council, Birmingham.

Annual included artists such as Henry Moore, Francis Bacon, Jeffery Camp, Victor Willing, Bridget Riley, Gilbert and George, David Nash, Richard Long, Tony Cragg, Steven Campbell, Ian McKeever, Stephen Cox, Thomas Joshua Copper, Julian Crater, Anthony Zych, Alan Johnston, Mac Adams, Rita Donagh, Fred Williams, Ann Stokes and Nicola Hicks before Greenwood offered him a solo show in 1987.

Nigel Greenwood (1941-2004) was an influential gallerist at the time and played an important role in identifying emerging artists and more importantly supporting and promoting knowledge of their work in Britain and abroad. He had identified and nurtured several important artists at the time including Christopher Le Brun, Ian McKeever, Stephen Cox and Gilbert & George.

By the time of Mistry's second solo show in 1990, he had established himself as a force in British sculpture. This was coupled with significant sales and more importantly for a sculptor, he was commissioned for large outdoor works.



Dhruva Mistry, Woman (study for River), 1988–89, bronze.

These included *Sitting Bull* for the Merseyside in Liverpool, *Diagram of an Object* for the Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow and *Reguarding Guardians of Art* at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. In 1991, the City Council of Birmingham, commissioned him for Victoria Square fountain. Mistry made *The River* and *Youth* in bronze for the large fountain and a pair of *Victoria Square Guardians* and *The Object - Variations* for the main city square in Birmingham. These are among his most iconic works, dominating the main central square in the city of Birmingham. The works in this exhibition are from this period.

Mistry's *Dialectal Images* series are unique direct wax works and *Spatial Diagrams* show constant push and pull of Eastern and Western sculptural language of forms and the artist's interest in eclectic traditions. In *Moving Mountain 2* (image no. 10) there are the clear references to images of crawling baby Krishna with a sweet ball in his hand and on the other hand Donatello statue of Gattamelata with the right leg resting on the ball. In *The River* and *Woman 3 (Study for River), Woman (Study for River), Spatial Diagram 1* and *Spatial Diagram 6* (image nos. 2, 3, 5 and 8), Mistry uses the form of the reclining nude. However in his version the reclining nude is classical in style yet contemporary in features, European in form yet Indian in pose. This dichotomy of style and cultures that are visible in Mistry's work is what makes them so compelling.

In 1997 Mistry returned to India and joined his alma mater in 1999 as the head of Sculpture and Dean in the Faculty of Fine Arts until 2002. This marked



Henry Moore, *Reclining Figure*, 1929, horton stone.

a turning point in Mistry's career as he sacrificed his career in the London art world. The return to academia, enriched his sensibilities but resulted in less time for his work. At the same time a newer generation of ambitious younger artists began to dominate the burgeoning Indian art scene. This was followed by a stroke in 2008 which forced the artist out of action for a few years. However he still works and exhibits every year at the Royal Academy and continues to inspire the next generation of sculptors at the University of Baroda. We will be exhibiting his new works in 2012.

Mistry's current status can be compared to that of another Indian artist -F. N. Souza who also exhibited at the Grosvenor Gallery. They were both leading artist's of the day who had left India in order to pursue an individual career in an international arena. While they achieved early notoriety and success, the rewards of the later years appear less satisfying in comparison to their contemporaries from India. As with Souza, it took a while for the wind to blow in his direction again, it will change for Mistry as well. This is the case for all good art as quality is timeless.



PLATES

Previous page Woman 3 (Study for River) (detail)

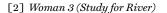
1988 – 1989 Bronze Cast in an edition of 5 19.5 x 27.5 x 14.7 cm (7.6 x 10.8 x 5.7 in)

[1] Study for the Object

1987 Bronze Cast in an edition of 5 27.5 x 16.3 x 17 cm (10.8 x 6.4 x 6.6 in)

This is a study for a life size sculpture that is placed at the entrance of the Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow, U.K.





1988 - 1989 Bronze Cast in an edition of 5 19.5 x 27.5 x 14.7 cm (7.6 x 10.8 x 5.7 in)

This work and no. 3 are studies for the *The River*, a large outdoor commission for Victoria Square in Birmingham. The central figure of which is a bold classical idealised form of a reclining female nude sitting in the middle of a large fountain. When looking at the form of the Reclining Figure, especially in Britain it is difficult not to compare Mistry's work to those of Henry Moore who was regarded as the titan of 20th Century British sculpture. For both artists the British Museum played an important role in shaping their ideas, especially the Egyptian and Mayan rooms, where they were inspired by the beauty and form as well as the timeless nature of these sculptures. While Moore was trying to learn from a 'primitive' or extinct tradition, Mistry was drawing on a very much active tradition found in traditional carving in the vilages and towns of India







Previous page [3] Woman (Study for River)

1988 - 1990 Bronze Edition 1 of 5 21.7 x 25.1 x 17.5 cm (8.4 x 9.8 x 6.8 in)

This is a study for the large scale sculpture at Victoria Square, Birmingham, U.K.

[4] Seated Figure

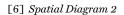
1988 – 1990 Bronze Cast in an edition of 5 21.5 x 13 x 20 cm (8.4 x 5.1 x 7.8 in)

This is a study for the stone sculpture entitled Goddess of Love 2002, which is located at Tamano City, Japan



[5] Spatial Diagram 1

1988 – 1990 Bronze Edition 2 of 5 27.5 x 18.2 x 18.5 cm (10.8 x 7.1 x 7.2 in) The *Spatial Diagram* series is a series of works where Mistry explores the dimensions geometry in the human body. In this instance the body is formed using several triangles and semi-circles.



1988 – 1990 Bronze Cast in an edition of 5 42 x 31 x 21 cm (16.5 x 12.2 x 8.2 in)

This is a study for the outdoor piece at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, u.ĸ.





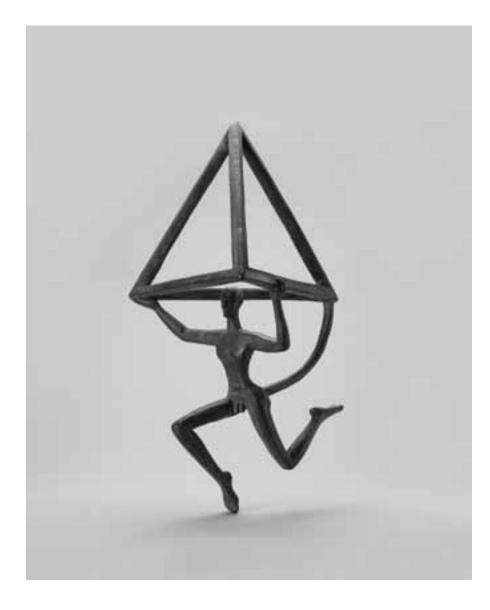
[7] Spatial Diagram 3

1988 – 1990 Bronze Edition 1 of 5 37.5 x 24 x 19.5 cm (14.7 x 9.4 x 7.6 in)



[8] Spatial Diagram 6

1988 – 1990 Bronze Edition 2 of 5 18.1 x 42 x 17 cm (7.1 x 16.5 x 6.6 in)



[9] Hanuman: Study for Spatial Metaphor

1989 Bronze Edition 1 of 5 36.9 x 21.5 x 18 cm (14.5 x 8.4 x 7 in)



[10] Moving Mountain 2

1988 - 1990 Bronze Cast in an edition of 5 38.7 x 25.2 x 38.96 cm (15.2 x 9.9 x 15.3 in) This is a maquette for *Reguarding Guardians* - 4, 1985 at the Fukuoka Museum of Asian Art, Japan. It has references to Donatello's Gattamelata, with the right leg of the figure resting on a ball as well as baby Krishna playing with a sugar ball.

[11] Dialectal Image 1

1990 Bronze Unique 30 .7 x 21.6 x 18.5 cm (12 x 8.5 x 7.2 in) The term 'dialectal' refers to a version of a language. In this instance it means a version of a sculpture or image. This series differs from the other works as it is an assemblage or collage of metal and forms. Despite being disparate objects they join to form a whole and in this instance as in most of Mistry's works - the human figure.





[12] Dialectal Image 6

1990 Bronze Unique 23 x 14.5 x 14 cm (9 x 5.7 x 5.5 in)



[13] Dialectal Image 8

1990 Bronze Unique 18.7 x 11.5 x 14.8 cm (7.3 x 4.5 x 5.8 in)





[14] Dialectal Image 9

1990 Bronze Unique 18.9 x 11.5 x 11.7 cm (7.4 x 4.5 x 4.6 in) [15] Dialectal Image 10

1990 Bronze Unique 17.3 x 13 x 10.9 cm (6.8 x 5.1 x 4.2 in)



In this dialectal image there are strong references to tribal imagery, particularly the masked figure. This in turn is a reference to Picasso who was the joint founder of Cubism, which although cerebral was inspired by tribal art. The concept of Cubism was to incorporate on the two dimensional image the various images of an object just as the mind does. For example, when we think of an apple we think of it from every angle not just as a flat image. When it came to sculpture Picasso turned to Julio Gonzales with whom he recreated the language of sculpture by re-assembling or constructing an object rather than traditional sculpture in clay which is based upon modelling. What Picasso and Gonzalez did was to revolutionise sculpture and allow artists such as Richard Serra and Anthony Caro to push the boundaries. Here Mistry is doing the same.

[16] Dialectal Image 12

1990 Bronze Unique 26 x 19.4 x 11 cm (10.2 x 7.6 x 4.3 in)



[17] Dialectal Image 13

1990 Bronze Unique 31 x 17.5 x 16.5 cm (12.2 x 6.8 x 6.4 in)

[18] Dialectal Image 15

1990 Bronze Unique 31.6 x 13.8 x 13.7 cm (12.4 x 5.4 x 5.3 in)





[19] Dialectal Image 17

1990 Bronze Unique 32 x 11 x 18.8 cm (12.5 x 4.3 x 7.4 in)

[20] Dialectal Image 18

1990 Bronze Unique 38 x 11 x 10.6 cm (14.9 x 4.3 x 4.1 in)





[21] Dialectal Image 22

1990 Bronze Unique 23.2 x 9 x 13.5 cm (9.1 x 3.5 x 5.3 in)



1957	Born Kanjari, Gujarat	
		2010
	Education	2009
1981-83	Master of Arts (Sculpture), Royal College of Art, London (British	2008
	Council Scholarship)	
1979-81	Master of Arts (Sculpture), Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao	
	University of Baroda	
1974-79	Bachelor of Art (Sculpture), Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao	2007
	University of Baroda (British Council Scholarship)	
		2006
	Exhibitions: Selected Solo Exhibitions	
2011	Dhruva Mistry, Bronzes 1987-1990, Grosvenor Vadehra Art Gallery, London	2005
2010	Dhruva Mistry, Recent Work, Hatheesing Centre, Ahmedabad	
2008	Artist in Focus, Contemporary Works: India 2008: Harmony Show,	2004
	Harmony Art Foundation, Mumbai	
2007	Steel, Stainless Still, New Work 2004-2006, Coimbatore Palace, Bodhi	
	Art, New Delhi	2003
	Ink Jet, Canvas & Sculpture, Art Pilgrim, New Delhi	2002
	Table Pieces 2003-2004, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai and tour Jehangir Art	
	Gallery, Mumbai and Lalit Kala Gallery, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi	
2001	Work 1997-2001, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai	
2000	Thoughts about Things: Leaves from Ire, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Ireland	2001
1999	Prints 1988-1998, Gallery Espace, New Delhi	
1998	Thoughts about Things: Leaves from Ire, Nazar Gallery, Vadodara	2000
1996	Recent Sculpture, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton	
	Unmasked, 1996, Meghraj Gallery, London	
1995	Work 1990-1995, Royal Academy, Friends Room, London	1999
1994	Asian Artist Today: Fukuoka Annual VII, Asian Art Museum,	
	Fukuoka, Japan	1997
1990	Bronzes 1985-1990, Nigel Greenwood Gallery, London	
1988-89	Cross-Sections, Sculpture and Drawings 1982-88, Collins Gallery,	
	University of Strathclyde, Glasgow and tour to Cleveland Gallery,	1996
	Middlesborough and Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	
1987	Dhruva Mistry, Nigel Greenwood Gallery, London	1995
1986-87	<i>Dhruva Mistry</i> , Artsite Gallery, Bath	
1985	Sculpture and Drawings, Kettle's Yard Gallery, University of Cambridge	
	and tour to Cartwright Hall in Bradford, Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol,	1994
	Mostyn Art Gallery in Llandudno and Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool	
1983	Dhruva Mistry, Contemporary Art Gallery, Ahmedabad	1993
1981	Dhruxa Mistry, Art Heritage, New Delhi and tour to Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai	

Selected Group Exhibitions
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London Art Fair, London
20th Century Sculpture 2009, Grosvenor Gallery, London
Indian Art, at the Swarovski 'Crystal World' Sculpture Park, Wattens, Austria
Faces of Indian Art, Book Release, ITC Grand central, Mumbai & Art
Books, Art Dubai, Dubai
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London
Faces of Indian Art, Art Alive Gallery at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
20th Century Sculpture 2007, Grosvenor Gallery, London
The Art Mill at Berkley Square Gallery, London
Nirmiti, a constructed object, Akar Prakar, Kolkata
Modern Indian Paintings, Gosvenor Gallery, London
Osian's Re-visulising India, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Indian Artists for France, Embassy of France, New Delhi
Subtlety-Minimally, curated by Marta Jakimovitz, Sakshi Gallery, Lalit
Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Affordable Art Show 2003, The Kanoria Centre for Arts, Ahmedabad
Thinking Big: 21st Century British Sculpture, Peggey Guggenheim
Collection, Venice
Metamorphing, curated by Marina Warner and Sarah Bakewell, Science
Museum, London
10th Triennale-India, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
RCA, Secret, Royal College of Art, London
Embarkations, The Millennium Show, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
Bronze, An Exhibition of Contemporary British Sculpture, Holland
Park, London
Sculpture at Goodwood, Goodwood
Drawing and Models, Hertogenbosch, Noorbrabants Museum, Holland
New Generation of Asian Art, Yonago City Museum of Art, and tour to
Prefectural Museum of Art, Miyakonojo City Museum of Art, Japan
Major Trends in Indian Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Mask'96, Royal Festival Hall, London
Academical Heads, Royal Academy London
ART'95 The London Contemporary Art Fair, Business Design
Center, London
Indian Winter, Kapil Jariwala Gallery, London
Figure and Fantasy, The Herbert Read Gallery, Canterbury
Gwyl Geff Harlech Art Biennale, Gwynedd
Recent British Sculpture, Arts Council Collection, Derby Museum and
Art Gallery and Tour

1993	Contemporary Art Society Market, Smiths Galleries, London	1980-83
1992	Drawing from the Imagination, Morley Gallery, London	1980
	Millfield British 20th Century Sculpture Exhibition, Somerset	1978-80
1991	Coming to Hand, Kibble Palace, Glasgow	1979
	Recent Acquisitions: Laing Art Gallery, Mayor Gallery, London	
1990	Menagerie, Glasgow Print Studio, Glasgow	
	Third Rodin Grand Prize Exhibition, Utsukushi-Ga-Hara Open Air	2006
	Museum, Japan	2001
1988	Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy, London	
	Images of Paradise, Terrace Gallery, Harwood House, Yorkshire	1999
1987	Works for Shelves: A System of Support, Kettle's Yard Gallery, Cambridge	
	The Self Portrait, A Contemporary View, Artsite Gallery, Bath	1998
1986	Sculpture at Stoke, National Garden Festival, Stoke on Trent	1995
	14th Biennale Internazionale del Bronzetto e Piccola Scultura, Padua	1995
1985	A Journey Through Contemporary Art, Hayward Gallery, London	1994
	Proud and Prejudiced, Twinning Gallery, New York	
1984	Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin	1994
	Festival Sculpture, International Garden Festival, Liverpool	1993
1983	Portland Clifftop Sculpture Park, Portland	1993
	Peter Moore's Project 7, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool and tour to Dublin	1993
1982	Fifth Triennale India, New Delhi	
	Contemporary Indian Art, Royal Academy of Arts, London	
1979	Silver Jubilee Exhibition of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Madras	1992
	National Exhibition of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi	
		1992
	Participations	
2011	The Intuitive: Logic Revisted, from the Osians Collection at The World	1991
	Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland	
2001	10th Triennale-India, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi	1991
1999	Sculpture at Goodwood, Goodwood	
1997	Sculpture at Goodwood, Goodwood	1990
1996	Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London	1988
1995	Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London	1983
1992	Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London	1983
1991	Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London (Jack Goldhill Award)	
1989	Contemporary Art Fair, Bath International Festival, Bath	1980-83
1988	Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London	1981
1986	14th Biennale Internazionale del Bronzetto e Piccola Scultura, Padua	
1984	Festival Sculpture, International Garden Festival, Liverpool	1979
1982	5th Triennale-India, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi	

Drawing Exhibition, Chandigarh Museum, Chandigarh (Award 1982)
Bombay Art Society, Bombay and Trade Fair, New Delhi
National Exhibition of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Silver Jubilee Exhibition of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Chennai
Honours and Awards
Award of Excellence by Gujarat Gaurav Samiti
Awarded Honorary CBE(Commander of the most excellent Order of the
British Empire) by Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth, London
Appointed Professor, Head of Sculpture and Dean of the Faculty of Fine
Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Baroda
Selected for the Millennium Medal Competition, London
Design and President's Award, Victoria Square Sculptures
The Landscape Institute and Marsh Fountain of the Year Award
Selected for a One Man Show, Asian Artist Today- Fukuoka Annual VII
Exhibition, organized by Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
Award for the Design of Humanities Prize Medal, London
Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, London
Humanities Prize Medal, London
Design and President's Award for Victoria Square Sculptures, The
Landscape Institute and The Marsh Fountain of the Year Award for
Victoria Square, Birmingham
Commissioned Sculptor of the Victoria Square by the City Council
of Birmingham
The Civic Trust, Woodhouse and the Renaissance Awards for Victoria
Square, UK
Elected Associate Member and Royal Academician, Royal Academy of
Arts, London
Jack Goldhill Award, 'Summer Exhibition', Royal Academy of Arts,
London and short-listed for Korn/Ferry International Premier Award
Third Rodin Grand Prize Exhibition, Japan (represented Britain)
Sculptor in Residence, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Madame Taussaud's Award at the Royal College of Art, London
Artist in Residence, Arts Council of GB and Kettle's Yard Gallery with a
Fellowship at Churchill College, Cambridge
Drawing Exhibition, Chandigarh Museum, Chandigarh (Award 1982)
Awarded British Council Scholarship for the Royal College of Art,
London (1981-83)
Gold Medal with Distinction, B.A. Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts, The M.S. University of Baroda

1976,'78	Gujarat State Lalit Kala Academy, Ahmedabad
	Public Commissions
1982	Mitchell Beazley Publishers, London
1983	Peter Moores Foundation, Liverpool
1984	Merseyside Development Corporation, Liverpool
1985	Churchill College, Cambridge
1987	Nitchiman Corporation, Japan
1988	Glasgow Garden Festival, Glasgow and British Art Medal Society, London
1989	National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
1990	Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow
1992	Victoria Square, the City Council, Birmingham
1993	International Classical Music Awards, London and Quaglino's, London
2002	Tamano City Project, Uno, Japan
2004	LNG Petronet Limited, Dahej
2005	Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi for Delhi University

Baroda Municipal Corporation Art Exhibition, Baroda

Public Collections

The Arts Council Britain, London Alliance Francaise, Embassy of France, New Delhi Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham The British Council, London The British Museum, London Contemporary Art Society, London Churchill College, Cambridge Cartwright Hall, Bradford City Art Gallery, Manchester Chelmsford and Essex Museum, Chelmsford City of Stoke-on-Trent Department of Fine Arts, Punjab University, Chandigarh Delhi University, New Delhi Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka Glynn Vivien Art Gallery, Swansea Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston The Hakone Open Air Museum, Japan

Jigyo-Chuo-Koen Park, Fukuoka Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi Leicestershire Education Authority, Leicestershire Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Milton Keynes Art Gallery, Milton Keynes Merseyside Development Corporation, Liverpool National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi National Museum of Wales, Cardiff Naka-dori, Marunochi, Tokyo The New British Library, London Oriana, P&O Cruises, UK Osian's Archive, New Delhi Peter Moore's Foundation, Liverpool Petronet LNG Limited, Dahej Roopankar Museum of Fine Art, Bhopal Royal College of Art, London Southampton Art Gallery, Southampton Sculpture at Goodwood, Goodwood Tate Gallery, London Tamano City Council, Uno, Japan Ulster Museum, Belfast Victoria & Albert Museum, London Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool West Zone Culture Centre, Udaipur Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton

This is a selected CV of the artist. A detailed version can be found on the Grosvenor Gallery website: www.grosvenorgallery.com

1977

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