

PRESS RELEASE

ROB SHERWOOD

HOW MUCH DOES THE EARTH WEIGH?

OPENING, THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2013 H 7.00 - 9.00 PM
29 MARCH – 11 MAY 2013

FEDERICA SCHIAVO GALLERY
PIAZZA MONTEVECCHIO 16 ROMA

Federica Schiavo Gallery is proud to present the second solo exhibition by the British artist Rob Sherwood in Rome, titled *How Much Does The Earth Weigh?*. Sherwood's latest group of paintings continue his investigations into creative composition in a predefined structure, the grid.

The title of the exhibition derives from a basic search engine query "how much does..." and the first phrase which was then offered under the system's autocomplete algorithms. This, and the grid's association with digital imagery, suggest Sherwood's interest in artistic labour and its relationship with technology; particularly regarding creative choice when using structures or system's which can limit autonomy.

Whilst Sherwood describes his paintings as being in a "fixed resolution", using grids of 1.5 cm², a sense of movement or boundlessness is crucial. Across the carefully ruled grid, close inspection reveals areas painted tight or loose, glossy or matt and either flat or in relief. The overall impression is of a transitional image, dissolving or forming.

In these new paintings Sherwood varies the scale considerably, further emphasising movement: small works on wooden panels, made using oil paint, spray paint, lacquers and varnishes, appear like studies relating to his larger paintings on canvas.

These miniatures, zoomed in, pay concentrated attention to the grid in terms of light and surface texture, as inspired by the artist's fascination with the artificial light inherent in screen culture. The shimmering complexity of the colour studies, aided by glazing, lustre and patina, and the subtle intonations in the series "Her Eyes On", each backlit with gold, suggest a desire to stop and touch, make his own, that which is usually fleeting or ephemeral.

- Guy Robertson and the artist.

Rob Sherwood was born in Bristol, UK in 1984. He lives and works in London. He graduated from the B.A. in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art and Design of London in 2008. **Selected Solo Exhibitions:** *The Warp & The Weft*, Son Gallery, London, UK 2012; *New Work*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK 2011; *Collicola Residence*, Palazzo Collicola Arti Visive, Spoleto, Italy 2010; *Prosthetics: Painting and Photography*, Son Gallery, London, UK 2010; *Synthetic Symphonies: Where I End and You Begin*, Federica Schiavo Gallery, Rome, Italy 2010; *The Stars Are Matter, We're Matter But It Doesn't Matter*, Federica Schiavo Gallery, Rome, Italy 2009; *Robert Sherwood: Selected Works*, ABZ Project Space, London, UK 2008. **Selected Group Exhibitions:** *Point.Line.Plane*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK 2011; *Instinct for the Actual*, Coldharbour London, London, UK 2011; *When Doves Cry. Aurora Orchestra*, LSO St. Luke's, London, UK 2011; *Dialects III: Iconology*, Pushkin House, London, UK 2010; *Should I Stay or Should I Go?* (A question rehearsed by RUN), Chelsea Space, London, UK 2010; *A New decade of Photography*, Son Gallery, London, UK 2010; *Donation*, 20 Hoxton Square, London, UK 2010; *RCA Secret*, Royal College of Art, London, UK 2009; *Time Flies*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK 2009; *The Oil Fields* (with James Capper), Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK 2009; *The Peckham Pavillion*, Hannah Barry Gallery at the 53rd Venice Biennale, Italy 2009; *Art Below Zero Group Show*, Westbourne Studios, London, UK 2009; *Things from Home*, Maddox Arts, London, UK 2009; *4 New Sensation*, Truman Brewery, London, UK 2008; *The Summer Show*, Pushkin House, London, UK 2008; *Schadenfreuding*, St. Giles Church, London, UK 2008; *Little's Birds*, Whitechapel Gallery Cinema, London, UK 2008. **Awards/Prizes:** *Collicola Residence*, Palazzo Collicola Arti Visive with the support of Anna Mahler International Association, Spoleto, Italy 2010; *Premio Gruppo Euromobil Under 30*, Art First 2010, Bologna, Italy 2010; Public Vote Winner for Saatchi Gallery/Channel 4's 4' New Sensations, London, UK 2008; *3 Minute Wonder* (film aired on Channel 4), London, UK 2008.