

HALCYON GALLERY

7 April 2010
Press Release

ROYO
AZULES Y BLANCOS
17 JUNE – 31 JULY 2010



Azules y Blancos 2 x 2 metres, oil on canvas

On 17 June 2010, Halcyon Gallery will open *Azules y Blancos (Blues and Whites)*, an exhibition of paintings by contemporary Spanish figurative painter, Royo. This exhibition comprises 30 new oil paintings on canvas together with a selection of large drawings.

Royo has passionately and wholeheartedly dedicated the last 30 years of his artistic career to the same subject matter: the female form. He is inspired by many historical periods from the Old Masters such as Velazquez (1599-1660) and Goya (1746-1828) to the 19th-century Impressionists such as Degas (1834-1917) and especially Sorolla (1863-1923). Always painted *en plein air*, these radiant paintings combine the formal elements of Western

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portraiture with the subtlety of a contemporary master's eye. The deflection of his sitter's gaze creates allegorical portraits of female spiritual beauty. This is reminiscent of early Western art such as "The Venus of Milo" the ancient Greek sculpture depicting Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. In paintings such as "Azules y Blancos" (Blues and Whites), the female silhouette becomes Royo's goddess and is depicted by a vast range of different white tones, applied in rapid, concise brushstrokes to create a ray of light across the picture.

The "whites composed of thousand whites", as Royo notes, continue in "Amanecer" (Dawn) but this time they have overtones of soft yellows of the morning sun, and in "Atardecer" (Evening), the evening light. Here the paint is used not just as colour but as a texture, giving an expressionist feeling of tranquillity. The blues of the Mediterranean which are exquisitely painted over the background of "Musa" (Muse) capture the intense atmosphere of his homeland. The sky is velvety and intense, while drops of soft red reflect over the white hues of the Mediterranean Sea and light.

Paul Green, President of Halcyon Gallery, says "This is our second exhibition of Royo's work and we are looking forward to having the gallery transformed by the scale and luminosity of these beautiful and unique canvases."

Based in Valencia, Royo's career spans five decades, obsessively painting since the age of seven. Royo then honed his artistic genius at the prestigious Royal Academy of San Carlos in Valencia. Royo has participated in a number of international art fairs and exhibited throughout his native Spain, across Europe, Japan and the United States. He has been commissioned to create important works such as several portraits for the High Ministry of Justice in Spain and a portrait of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain for the Spanish Embassy in Japan, and was also awarded the prestigious Rotary Personality of the year award in 2009.

Contact information:

For further press information or high resolution images for publication please contact Anna Kirrage at Halcyon Gallery on 020 7647 8327 or akirrage@halcyongallery.com

Notes to Editors:

The exhibition catalogue will include a text by Professor Felipe Garin Llombart (Honorary Director of the Prado Museum and curator of Sorolla : Visiones de Espana at the Bancaja Foundation Valencia).

Halcyon Gallery

Situated in the heart of Mayfair, London, Halcyon Gallery is one of a leading art gallery representing some of the finest artists and sculptors working today. Halcyon Gallery is

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committed to supporting and nurturing outstanding living artists, specialising in fine art and master graphics as well as original paintings, drawings and sculpture.

Halcyon Gallery's magnificent five-storey flagship gallery at 24 Bruton Street opened in 2008, joining the original gallery at 29 New Bond Street. Both spaces hold important exhibitions of iconic modern masterpieces and new work by eminent contemporary artists throughout the year. For further information please visit: www.halcyongallery.com

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Free entry