

# CHASING SHADOWS

**Sally McKay**

**14 May - 20 June 2009**

*"The shift of weight, the so familiar and particular outline of a Graham dancer, the intensity of the movement, it is all there..."* Virginie Mécène, Director Martha Graham School Of Contemporary Dance, New York

From woven wire figures casting delicate shadows to turbulent figures rendered in charcoal pencil and pastel, Sally McKay captures the rhythm, the energy and the split second movement of dance.

Taut black and white images distill the essence of the moving body - the way a dancer intervenes in space, the moments of contact, the trace of energy, the shadows of people now vanished from sight.



**Sally McKay** *Be Still My Soul*

A series of important residencies with contemporary dance companies such as Siobhan Davies Dance, The Martha Graham Dance Company, the integrated dance company Candoco and the contemporary dance school, Laban have all informed and developed a practice that is absorbed with the moving figure.

Working with performers and drawing them repeatedly during rehearsals, training and performance, the artist's initial responses are recorded on sheets of Fabriano and in small concertina sketchbooks. These are then transformed into paintings, etchings and sculpted life-size figures in wire. The paintings are started soon after the drawings are made, while the memory of the movement is still strong. These large-scale canvases in oil and acrylic do not aim to be accurate renditions of a particular dance, but more reflect what the artist saw and felt whilst watching.

Working almost entirely on a single theme, Sally McKay's work on paper, canvas and in wire seeks to capture the essence of a person through recording their movement and their impact on space. Following exhibitions at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London and the Martha Graham Dance School, New York this is McKay's first solo show in London, bringing together a large body of work and including new pieces specially commissioned for the space.

**For further information or images contact  
Penny Sychrava PR on 0796 791 5339 or penny@gvart.co.uk**

## **Visitor Information**

Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11am - 7pm, Saturdays 11am - 4pm

## **Workshops**

### **Children's Art Workshop - Drawing, dance and sculpture**

Watch a dancer perform, learn how to sketch a moving figure fast and make your own unique sculpture to take home. A fantastic combination of live performance and art suitable for children from 9 upwards of all levels.

Date: Wednesday 27th May from 10am to 1pm

Age: 8 upwards

Cost: £10 including all materials and tuition

Booking: Book in advance, limited spaces, no unaccompanied children under the age of 13.

### **Adult Two day - Dance and Sculpture Workshop**

Draw a moving dancer and from your drawings sculpt in wire. A two day course for all levels that teaches you all you need to know about capturing live movement.

Date: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 10.30am to 5pm

Cost: £75 includes all materials and tuition

Booking: Book in advance, limited spaces

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