

## Bridget Riley

Paintings and works on paper

Narborough Hall, Norfolk  
4 June - 28 August 2006



During the summer of 2006 Narborough Hall in Norfolk hosted an exhibition of works by one of Britain's most celebrated artists, Bridget Riley.

Since it opened to the public three years ago, Narborough Hall has hosted exhibitions by internationally recognised artists including Barry Flanagan and David Inshaw. Flanagan's sculptures of leaping hares animated the seventy acres of parkland that surround the house, whilst David Inshaw's paintings were exhibited in the series of inter-connecting rooms on the ground floor of the Hall that have been converted into gallery space.

The Riley exhibition included several seminal works that traced her artistic development from the dazzling black and white works of the 1960s, with which she first made her name, through to the late 1980s. Her arresting canvas *Midi*, 1983, represents one of her most recognisable styles - simple bands of colour creating a visual rhythm - that developed following her travels to ancient burial sites in the Nile Valley (1979-1980). Inspired by their vivid decorations and consistent use of certain groups of colours, Riley began to explore the potential of the 'Egyptian palette' in her own work. Other works included *Lascaux*, 1974 and *Aurulum*, 1977, delicate curve paintings radiating with pale, coloured light. *Certain Day*, 1989, is an important example of her so-called zig period where Riley introduced the dynamic diagonal to disrupt the balance of her pictorial space. A series of gouaches from all periods included a rare black and white study dedicated to Ben Nicholson and the impressive *Cartoon for Gala*. Also on view were the entire set of *Fragments*, 1965: a group of seven striking screenprints printed directly onto plexiglass - a new material developed in the sixties, which serves to reflect her and other artists' preoccupation with the new, the synthetic and the fresh.

The landscape surrounding Narborough Hall is steeped in history. There is an Iron Age monument - Norfolk's second largest - that takes the form of a vast earthwork dating from c. 3000 BC. Recently the walled garden has been re-established and produces a variety of traditional fruits and vegetables in the restored Victorian melon house and fruit cages. Bob Lever, head gardener in charge of restoring the gardens also has his own willow sculpture on display. Cricket matches are still played most Sundays on the 150-year-old ground within the estate.

Visitors are free to wander around the grounds throughout the run of the exhibition: the magnificent Elizabethan Hall with its Georgian wing is set in over seventy acres of gardens and parkland with two lakes and mature woodland.

Gallery Hours: Wednesdays, Sundays and August Bank Holiday 11-5pm or by appointment.

For further information, please contact us on 020 7439 0918 or [info@narborough-hall.co.uk](mailto:info@narborough-hall.co.uk)