

W H I T E   C U B E

Mason's Yard

### Press Release

Wayne Thiebaud

1962 to 2017

24 May – 2 July 2017

Preview: Tuesday 23 May 2017, 6–8pm

The first comprehensive UK exhibition of painter **Wayne Thiebaud** (b. 1920, Arizona, U.S.) goes on show at White Cube, featuring major works from 1962 to the present day.

Thiebaud is one of America's most celebrated modern masters, with a career spanning seven decades. Often small in scale, his paintings are uniquely American in their subject matter, from still lifes of candy, pastries and pies, to landscapes and portraits of family and friends.

Thiebaud emerged with Abstract Expressionism and later Pop Art, yet his canvasses stand closer to the urban scenes of Edward Hopper or the focused still lifes of Cézanne or Morandi. In his paintings of food, the artist draws links between the objects depicted and the tactility of the paint itself: icing swirls are recreated using thick impasto, or in *Cotton Candy* (2016), paint is applied in hazy, spidery strokes, mimicking the airy texture of candy floss.

Thiebaud studied commercial illustration, and uses these techniques in many of his works, emphasising blank spaces and dark shadows. His experiments with colour, from pastel hues to bright, bold tones, come to the fore in works such as *Cherry Topped Desserts* (1986) and *Cheese Deli* (2016–17), where he adopts a Fauvist approach freed from the limitations of real life. In portraits such as *Player* (1981) and *Green Dress* (1966/2017), Thiebaud places his sitters against an empty, white expanse with minimal props.

The artist's landscapes employ dramatic compositions. He relates these images to the experience of driving in America: 'It came about by driving across the country and actually going through those canyons. Those imposing structures seem to just fall in on you and make such a nice visual shape that I can't resist doing them.' Farmed fields are depicted by Thiebaud as patterned rectangles, with slices or squares set against each other in vivid colours. For the charcoal work *Ridge Bluff and Farmland* (2017), the canvas is divided diagonally, with the sheer face of the cliffs splitting the picture in two. By contrast, the washed-out purples and flesh tones of another cliff painting, *Bluff* (2013), create an image so abstracted it takes on anthropomorphic qualities.

Wayne Thiebaud '1962 to 2017' opens at White Cube Mason's Yard on 24 May and continues until 2 July 2017. A fully illustrated publication, with a text by curator and art historian Dr David Anfam, is published to accompany the exhibition.

**ENDS**

For additional press information and images contact:

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## Notes to Editors:

- Wayne Thiebaud was born in 1920 in Mesa, Arizona and lives and works in Sacramento, California. He has exhibited extensively including solo exhibitions at Laguna Art Museum, CA, Springville Museum of Art, UT, Palm Springs Art Museum, CA, Loveland Museum, CO and San Jose Museum of Art, CA (a touring exhibition between 2008-10); Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO (2003); De Young Fine Arts Museum, San Francisco, CA, Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX, The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (a touring exhibition between 2000-01); SF MOMA, San Francisco, CA, Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA, Milwaukee Art Museum, WI, Columbus Museum of Art, OH and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO (both 1985-86).
- Admission to White Cube is free. White Cube Mason's Yard is open Tuesday–Saturday 10am–6pm. White Cube Mason's Yard will open specially on Sunday 2 July only from 12 — 6pm as part of Mayfair Art Weekend. Visit [mayfairartweekend.com](http://mayfairartweekend.com) for more information.
- Address: 25–26 Mason's Yard, St. James's, London SW1Y 6BU, United Kingdom +44 (0)20 7930 5373 [whitecube.com](http://whitecube.com)
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across its three gallery spaces: Bermondsey in South London, Mason's Yard in St. James's, London and Hong Kong Central district. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
- Join the conversation with White Cube: #WayneThiebaud.
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