



Anthony Green RA is one of the UK's best loved figurative painters. His work has consistently occupied an artistic position quite apart from the status quo, yet throughout his career he has managed to culture a firm popularity with art lovers of all ages.

In his most recent exhibition at Curwen Gallery, he focuses on his many 'everyday adventures' which include looking at flowers, having a nap and admiring his wife.

Review by Robin Spalding

Everyday Adventures with Anthony, his Family and the Flowers is a retrospective exhibition of paintings from Anthony Green RA's 50 year career. These works celebrate the minutiae of his everyday life and transform the unremarkable episodes of a quintessentially English, middle class existence into gently heroic scenes. These works provide a refreshing championing of the ordinary life in a time when many of us have a tendency to idolise the exceptional lives of the celebrity elite.

Everyday Adventures... is a painted autobiography. Each work documents a particular event from Green's private life. The exhibition joins these scenes together in a manner reminiscent of a pop-up book detailing the ordinary activities of a household. The paintings are on gesso panels which are cut to fit the contours of the images, making the display into a jigsaw-like tapestry of his domestic anecdotes.



Anthony Green, *The Bureau, Afternoon Sun*, 163 x 122 cm, oil on gesso panel

The quirky shaping of the paintings is not a gimmicky pictorial device. They are simply the most appropriately shaped objects to hold the image. Green produces each panel to fit his



Anthony Green, *Loxley Garden*, 153 x 158 cm,
oil on gesso panel

subject, distilling the object of his focus from its environment. This is how an image appears in his memory, without the infinite limits of a scene directly observed from nature.

These paintings are the subjective records of his memories, coloured by personal interpretations of the events that have defined his life. Although they focus on Green's experience alone, they could be seen as emblematic of the way we all see, remember and interpret our individual worlds.

The works are colourful, jubilant and exquisitely crafted. Green displays the skills of a master with both the sculptural shaping of

his beautifully rendered gesso panels and with his adept use of paint.

With *Everyday Adventures...* Anthony Green RA works to restore the appreciation of the value of the events which compose a normal life. With his own world as a case study, he deals with numerous universal themes such as love, aging, success and failure. This exhibition invites visitors to consider the potential significance of each seemingly unremarkable scene from their own everyday lives.

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Anthony Green: *Everyday Adventures with Anthony, his Family and the Flowers*

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