

Richard Estes  
Voyages

# PRESS RELEASE

8.9.21

**Richard Estes Voyages**  
10 September – 12 December

**Newport Street Gallery**  
Newport Street  
London SE11 6AJ



## Celebrated American artist **Richard Estes** to receive first major UK show at Damien Hirst's Newport Street Gallery this autumn

Newport Street Gallery presents 'Richard Estes: Voyages', the first major exhibition of the artist's work in the UK, **10 September – 12 December 2021**. The show, curated by Andrew Heyward, will include over forty-five paintings made over the last thirty years. While Estes is best known for his paintings of New York, the London show will also feature paintings made following trips to Europe, Asia, Africa and Antarctica.

"I am thrilled to be able to bring Richard Estes' first retrospective to the UK. Richard is a living icon of American painting and this will be a rare opportunity to see his mesmerizing works in person", said Damien Hirst. "I've loved his work since I was shown it when I was 13 by my art teacher in high school, Mr Wood. While trends and movements come and go, Richard has stayed true to his vision and singular approach to painting for more than fifty years and I find this unwavering commitment to be a true inspiration. While Richard's much-loved paintings of New York will be central to the show, the lesser-known works made from his travels around the world are a revelation and I'm super excited to include them in his show and to be helping to give a broader understanding of Richard's work to a British audience."

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated, hardbound monograph with a new text by Patterson Sims and a conversation with Richard Estes and Hans Ulrich Obrist.

Richard Estes' last European retrospective was held at El Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, in 2007. Most recent US retrospectives were organized jointly by the Portland Museum of Art in Portland, Maine, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC – both curated by Patterson Sims, who is writing for the Newport Street Gallery catalogue.



Richard Estes, *Fog Lifting off the Coast of Antarctica*, 2007



Richard Estes, *Staten Island Ferry Docking Manhattan*, 2008



## About Richard Estes

Richard Estes is the standard-bearer of photorealist painting and its most devoted and accomplished practitioner. His work is defined by a profound commitment to the quotidian truths of his depictions. Of equal importance is his unique creative process in which repeated observations coalesce into an image in his mind. The painting of that image represents a vision within his subjective reality. Over the last half-century, the rare integrity of his process has unveiled a true understanding of the world around us, even as our cities, our landscapes and our rituals change – slowly and steadily, then all at once. As the pendulum swings back from abstraction and realism recaptures the imagination, Richard Estes' place is secured as one of the leading painters of the 20th century. His body of work includes his interpretations of timeless, pristine images of New York City as well as his many adventures in travel.

## About Newport Street Gallery

Newport Street Gallery opened in Vauxhall, south London, in October 2015. The gallery is the realisation of Damien Hirst's long-term ambition to share his extensive collection of art – which includes over 3,000 works – with the public. Hirst's interest in curating dates back to the beginning of his artistic career and his organisation of the ground-breaking 'Freeze' exhibition in south London in 1988. In October 2016, the gallery was awarded the respected RIBA Stirling Prize for the UK's best new building of the year.

Opening times

Wednesday – Sunday 10am – 5pm

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

Please visit the website for further details



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Richard Estes, *Self Portrait in Copenhagen, 2019*



Richard Estes, *ATM*, 2018

# Biography

"I always had the sort of feeling that one should paint just what's in your world. Look at the world and try to understand it," Richard Estes said of his artistic and intellectual aesthetics. Considered the founder and leading member of the international Photo-Realist movement of the late 1960s, Estes is now one of the most celebrated painters in the history of American Realism.

Born in 1932 in Kewanee, Illinois, Estes is known for his contemplative paintings of cities and landscapes, often including reflective elements such as stainless-steel surfaces or glass windows. During his studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago he was greatly influenced by the realist works of Edgar Degas, Edward Hopper and Thomas Eakins. After graduating in 1956 Estes moved to New York, where he worked for the next ten years as a graphic artist, painting only in his spare time.

Painting became Estes' full-time job only in his mid-30s, after his successful first solo exhibition at Allan Stone Gallery in New York. In direct contrast to the contemporary Pop and Conceptual artistic developments, his works focused on clean, sunlit scenes of storefronts and buildings originating from his own photographs. Estes' paintings uncannily reproduce three-dimensional elements on flat canvases, capturing evanescent reflections which change with the lighting and the time of day. These works, however, are not meant to be precise translations of photographs, but manipulate light, artificially amplifying luminosity and clarity, foregrounding otherwise overlooked or unseen details of urban or natural life.

Throughout his career Estes has portrayed major cities such as London, New York, Paris, Venice and Tokyo, as well as the brightly lit natural landscapes of the coasts and woods of Maine. Estes' canvases are compounded and generative, merging layers and viewpoints, accumulating details and creating dense visual structures. Yet, they also convey a transient sense of ephemerality, recording the ever-changing appearance of urban and natural spaces of the 20th and 21st centuries. In recent years Estes has integrated digital software into his practice in order to manipulate and combine multiple photographs for his source material.

Today, Estes continues to produce incredibly detailed paintings which combine subtle artistic alterations and deep, intense realistic visions. His iconic paintings guide viewers through fleeting reflections and memorable landmarks, leading them to question the relationship between vision and reality.





“I’ve always been sort of addicted to travel and looking for new subjects. So, you know, when I travelled I took photos, it was just that’s where I happened to be at the time – I had been there and I had the photos, so it was possible to make paintings of there.”

–Richard Estes, Artist



“I am fascinated by architecture, I love – fell in love with all these buildings. That’s why I travel. I don’t travel, really, for mountains, or rivers, so much as I travel to look at architecture.”

–Richard Estes, Artist

“I think the popular concept of an artist is a person who has this great passion and enthusiasm and super emotion. He just throws himself into this great masterpiece and collapses from exhaustion when it’s finished. It’s really not that way at all. Usually it’s a pretty calculated, sustained, and slow process by which you develop something. The effect can be one of spontaneity, but that’s part of the artistry... I think the real test is to plan something and be able to carry it out to the very end. Not that you’re always enthusiastic; it’s just that you have to get this thing out. It’s not done with one’s emotions; it’s done with the head.”

-Richard Estes, Artist



Richard Estes, *Hidden Lake Near Mount Cook, New Zealand*, 2010



Richard Estes, *Ngorongoro Crater I*, 2015

“He’s just really interested in painting, and just finding extremely complex and interestingly challenging images to paint.”

–Patterson Sims, Curator and President of the Board of Independent Curators International (ICI)



“Richard’s work makes us look, and makes us look very carefully,  
and gives us something that’s worth looking at carefully.”

–Patterson Sims, Curator and President of the Board of Independent Curators International (ICI)

“Estes’ urban façades, streetscapes, and vistas of venerable or banal and usually passed-by buildings remain vibrant affirmations and celebrations of a thrilling, ever-evolving city.”

–Patterson Sims, Curator and President of the Board of Independent Curators International (ICI)



“It is easy to look at a reproduction of an Estes painting and mistake it for a photo, or to dismiss it as a slavish paint-by-numbers copy from another genre. In the flesh, though, it resolves into a tour de force of subtle invention.”

–Justin Davidson, Critic



Richard Estes, *View of Barcelona, Spain*, 1987



Richard Estes, *Accademia, Venice*, 1980



“His window is a photograph.”

—Jessica May, Managing Director of Art & Exhibitions/Artistic Director, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum



“Estes is a paradigmatic example of a world-class artist who is also a consummate artisan. He uses his own extraordinary skill as a means to open up possibilities of form and content.”

– Glenn Adamson, Curator and Writer



Richard Estes, *Galapagos*, 2010



Richard Estes, *Rihanna*, 2012



Richard Estes, *Late Afternoon Tide, Provincetown II*, 2006



Richard Estes, *View in Nepal*, 2010

# PRESS IMAGES

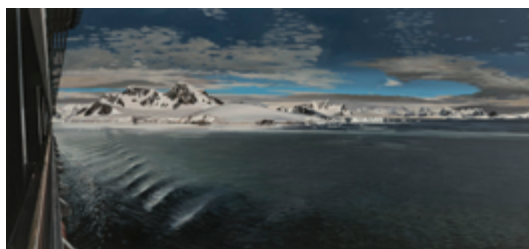
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VIDEO: <https://we.tl/t-u7wfEUJqWn>



Richard Estes  
*Antarctica I*, 2013  
Oil on panel  
37.5 x 50.8 cm / 14 3/4 x 20 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky

Richard Estes  
*Antarctica II*, 2013  
Oil on panel  
42.5 x 57.8 cm / 16 3/4 x 22 3/4 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Fog Lifting off the Coast of Antarctica*, 2007  
Oil on panel  
35.6 x 86.4 cm / 14 x 34 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky

Richard Estes  
*Antarctica II*, 2007  
Oil on panel  
67 x 144.8 cm / 26 3/8 x 57 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Hidden Lake Near Mount Cook, New Zealand, 2010*  
Oil on panel  
27.9 x 55.9 cm / 11 x 22 1/8 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Galapagos, 2010*  
Oil on panel  
30.5 x 41.3 cm / 12 x 16 1/4 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*New Zealand II, 2017*  
Signed and dated at lower right: RICHARD ESTES / 2017  
Oil on panel  
47.6 x 72.7 cm / 18 3/4 x 28 5/8 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*View in Nepal, 2010*  
Oil on canvas  
81.3 x 109.2 cm / 32 x 43 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Mount Cook (New Zealand), 2010*  
Oil on panel  
14.6 x 47 cm / 5 3/4 x 18 1/2 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*The Italian Accademie, Venice, 1980*  
Oil on canvas  
60.3 x 137.2 cm / 23 3/4 x 54 1/8 in  
Credit: Roz Akin



Richard Estes  
*Norway, 2019*  
Oil on panel  
27.9 x 35.6 cm / 11 x 14 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Madrid, 2018*  
Oil on panel  
40.6 x 50.8 cm / 16 x 20 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Self Portrait in Copenhagen, 2019*  
Oil on panel  
40.6 x 50.8 cm / 16 x 20 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Ngorongoro Crater I, 2015*  
Oil on panel  
34.9 x 30.2 cm / 13 3/4 x 11 7/8 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Ngorongoro Crater II, 2015*  
Oil on panel  
30.5 x 55.9 cm / 12 x 22 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Ngorongoro Crater III, 2015*  
Oil on panel  
45.7 x 61 cm / 18 x 24 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Victoria Falls II, 2015*  
Oil on panel  
40.6 x 50.8 cm / 16 x 20 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Serengeti, 2015*  
Oil on panel  
34.9 x 55.6 cm / 13 3/4 x 21 7/8 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Express*, 2020  
Oil on canvas  
94 x 139.7 cm / 37 x 55 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Century*, 2020  
Oil on canvas  
76.2 x 114.3 cm / 30 x 45 in  
Credit: Roz Akin



Richard Estes  
*ATM*, 2018  
Oil on panel  
40.6 x 50.8 cm / 16 x 20 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Staten Island Ferry Arriving with a Distant View of Manhattan and New Jersey*, 2011  
Oil on panel  
32.7 x 47.9 cm / 12 7/8 x 18 7/8 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Rihanna*, 2012  
Oil on panel  
30.5 x 61 cm / 12 x 24 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Late Afternoon Tide, Provincetown II*, 2006  
Oil on panel  
34.3 x 51.1 cm / 13 1/2 x 20 1/8 in  
Credit: Matthew Ortiz



Richard Estes  
*View of Barcelona, Spain, 1987*  
Oil on canvas  
101.6 x 224.8 cm / 40 x 88 1/2 in  
Credit: Roz Akin



Richard Estes  
*View from Cadillac Mountain, 2020*  
Oil on panel  
40.6 x 55.9 cm / 16 x 22 in  
Credit: Roz Akin



Richard Estes  
*Beech Hill I, 2010*  
Oil on panel  
57.8 x 39.4 cm / 22 3/4 x 15 1/2 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Staten Island Ferry Docking Manhattan, 2008*  
Oil on board  
58.7 x 40.6 cm / 23 1/8 x 16 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Approaching Storm, Lake Champlain, 1997*  
Oil on canvas  
40.6 x 80 cm / 16 x 31 1/2 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky



Richard Estes  
*Tahiti, 2010*  
Oil on panel  
22.9 x 47 cm / 9 x 18 1/2 in  
Credit: Josh Nefsky