

Marlborough

Maggi Hambling:
Walls of Water: the Monotypes

2 December – 10 January 2015



Maggi Hambling has established a reputation over the last four decades as one of Britain's most significant and controversial artists. The National Gallery's first Artist in Residence (1980 – 81), she returns to the National Gallery in November 2014 for the exhibition of paintings and monotypes *Maggi Hambling: Walls of Water*.

The artist's initial series of *Wall of Water* monotypes were first shown at Hambling's solo exhibition in 2013 at the Hermitage, St Petersburg, in response to the themes of discord and reconciliation portrayed so profoundly by Rembrandt in *The Return of the Prodigal Son*.

To coincide with the National Gallery exhibition, Marlborough Fine Art presents *Walls of Water: the monoprints*.

These works have their origins in Hambling's experience of gigantic waves crashing onto the sea at Southwold, Suffolk, the county where she was born, lives and which has often inspired her work. A monotype is a form of printmaking that, unlike etching or lithography, produces only one impression from the plate. In the black and white series Hambling works on a zinc plate which has first been covered in a dense layer of black printing ink – a process she describes as 'drawing with light into the dark'. For the silver and black series, the plate has been covered in a dense layer of silver printing ink. Using her fingers, rags, brushes and solvent she selectively removes or adds the ink and once she has arrived at the final image, plate and paper are put through the press and a single print is pulled.

The waves are poised between animation and disintegration, flickering ghosts of people and animals appear and disappear within them as they challenge the sea wall below.

Hambling remains a singular contemporary force whose work continues to confront and seduce.