

## ART REVIEW

### Dan Llywelyn Hall



Dan Llywelyn Hall's rise to critical acclaim has been swift. Within a year of graduating from the University Of Westminster he had been named as the Sunday Times Young Artist Of The Year, and he has since been short-listed twice for Welsh Artist Of The Year. Trained as an illustrator, Hall works in a wide variety of mediums, from etchings to screen prints, oil paints to watercolours, and with two shows on the go this diversity can only be a good thing.

Wales: Dead Or Alive? (Until Sep 28, St David's Hall) sees the artist returning to his illustrating roots with a series of 12 screen prints created as a direct responses to 12 poems by Owen Sheers.

Interpretations rather than direct illustrations, each print plays with the poem's themes and ultimately attempts to create a space for poetry to be interpreted on a more instinctive level. Sheers' verses are clever, miniature observations of everyday life, and Hall's work is bold, brash and colourful, with an unfortunate tendency to add extra

insight into the poems at the expense of what the reader might have interpreted for themselves.

Living Monuments (Until Sep 29, Washington Gallery) showcases Hall's landscapes. Often working in thick

oils, Hall displays an intrinsic understanding of colour and texture and, citing influences from the likes of Van Gogh, Courbet and Cézanne, it's no wonder his work is largely expressionist.

Focusing on the landscapes of Wales, Hall's paintings, with their bright hues, warm tones and pastoral idylls, could just as easily be the south of France. Hall displays an expert eye for composition, and the scenes he paints are meandering but engrossing: there's so much going on here. It has been suggested that landscape painting is a dying art. Hall is however going some way to show there's life in the old dog yet.

*Brodie Lyon*



*Colour and texture: Hall's Hillside Enigma*

St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff, Mon to Sat 10pm to 4pm and performance evenings, free.

Tel: 029 2087 8444. [www.stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk](http://www.stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk)

Washington Gallery, 1-3 Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth, Mon to Sat 9am to 6pm, Sun 10am to 5.30pm, free. Tel: 029 2071 2100. [www.washingtongallery.co.uk](http://www.washingtongallery.co.uk)