





THE WEST GALLERY QUAY ARTS, SEA STREET, NEWPORT HARBOUR

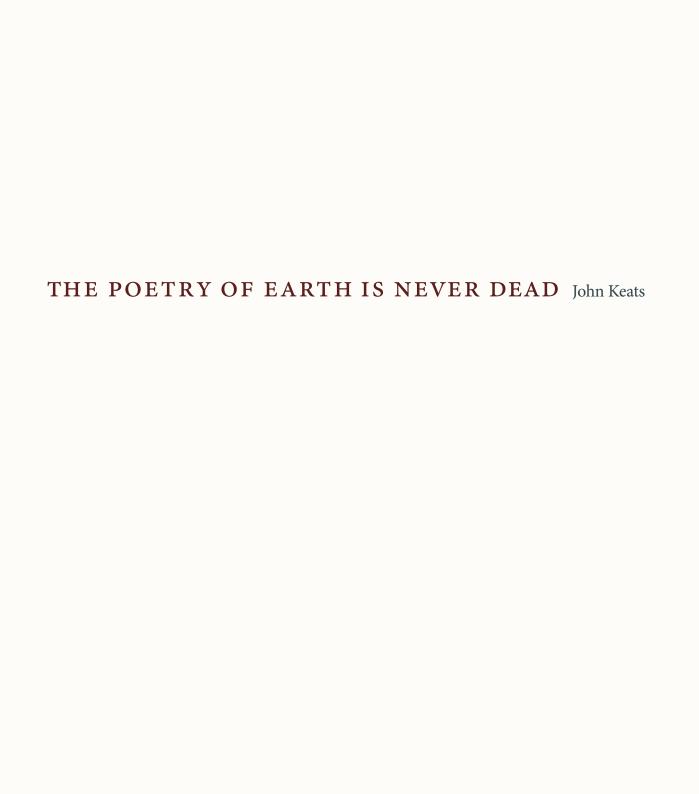
ISLE OF WIGHT PO30 5BD • WWW.QUAYARTS.ORG

13TH JULY - 31ST AUGUST, 2013









I was born at Knowles Farm, a few hundred yards from St Catherine's Lighthouse on the southernmost tip of the Isle of Wight. This unique and romantic landscape was my childhood world. It shaped my imagination and has been a source of inspiration ever since. I now live in the Malvern Hills, in another inspirational place, but I still have a sense of coming home whenever I cross the Solent.

A synthesis of observed reality, memory and art historical or poetic source material is the basis of my practice. Drawing and painting are equal but alternative ways of realising certain ideas and act as a counterpoint to each other. For example, the small paintings of a sprig of bay picked in Greece complement the charcoal drawings on classical themes. The birds flitting throughout this collection of works appear in both the paintings and drawings.

The literary and artistic concept of the pastoral has a particular resonance for me. The complexities of pastoral, with its evocation of Arcadia and its sense of loss and nostalgia for a Golden Age, correspond with my own experiences and family history. It has given me a framework on which to interweave images which may appear disparate but connect and spark off each other in my mind. Hanging this exhibition at Quay Arts on the Isle of Wight revealed new relationships between works from a 20 year period. There are drawings based on fragments of Ancient Greek

sculpture, figures in the landscape including an old shepherd in present day Arcadia, a young man in the Herefordshire hopyards, a group of women riding to hounds with a Worcestershire hunt. Imaginary portraits of poets form an occasional, ongoing series: Sylvia Plath as a beekeeper, Shelley sailing off Livorno and Keats walking on the Isle of Wight cliffs. There are drawings and paintings of the Island landscape, the River Severn in flood, and a bull which my grandfather once owned that reappears at intervals in my work in different guises.

I have painted the iconic tower of St Catherine's Lighthouse many times over the years, in all seasons and moods. The wind sculpted pine tree outside the lighthouse gate is also a recurring motif. Like the lighthouse, it has been a constant presence in my life—the source of my earliest memories, along with the continually renewed population of magpies, crows and grazing cattle which are always to be found there.

The earliest work in this collection is *Coastal Landscape* with *Dancers* (after Claude) from 1992. The figures are based on my children's friends at that time and re-enact an imagined country dance. They are set in a landscape borrowed from a painting by Claude Lorrain.

Bridget Macdonald Malvern, 2013



CAT NO. 1  $\,$  Coast, 2012, charcoal/graphite on paper, 32  $\times$  48 ins





CAT NO. 2 **Lighthouse**, 2012, charcoal/graphite on paper, 32 × 48 ins



CAT NO. 3 September Lighthouse, 2013, oil on linen, 40 × 45 ins





cat no. 4  $\,$  Spring Landscape, 2012, charcoal/graphite on paper 32  $\times$  48 ins





cat no. 5  $\,$  Snowy Woods, 2012, charcoal/graphite on paper, 32  $\times$  48 ins



CAT NO. 6 Winter Flood, 2009, oil on linen, 40 × 40 ins





CAT NO. 7 **Camargue**, 2012, charcoal on paper,  $48 \times 60$  ins





 $_{\text{CAT NO. 8}}$  The May Bull, 2008, charcoal/pastel on paper,  $48\times60$  ins





 $_{\text{CAT NO. 9}}$  Two Seasons in Arcadia, 2012, charcoal/graphite/pastel on paper, 32  $\times$  48 ins





 $_{\text{CAT NO. 10}}$  The Arcadian Shepherd, 2011 charcoal/graphite on paper, 32  $\times$  48 ins





CAT NO. 11 Rock and Blackthorn, 2013, oil on linen,  $20 \times 20$  ins





 $_{\text{CAT NO. }13}$  Abbess of the Bees, 1998, charcoal/pastel on paper, 48  $\times$  32 ins



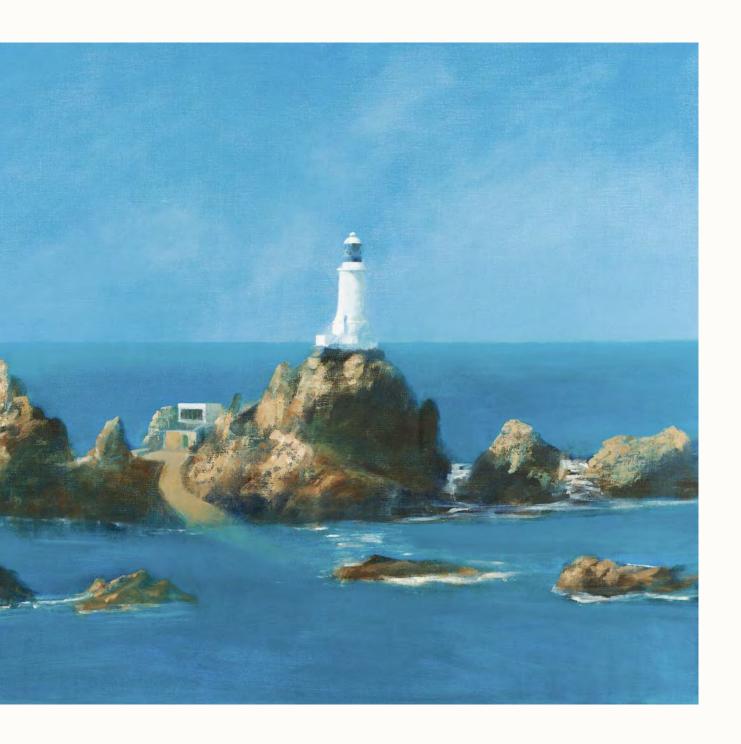
CAT NO. 14 Eclogue (Exile), 2008, charcoal on paper,  $48 \times 32$  ins

CAT NO. 15 Sea Green with Magpies, 2013, oil on linen,  $40 \times 45$  ins





CAT NO. 16 Lighthouse and ship (Corbiere), 2009, oil on linen, 40 × 60 ins





 $_{\text{CAT NO. 17}}$  Shelley sailing off Livorno, 2011, charcoal on paper, 30  $\times$  22 ins



 $_{\text{CAT NO. }18}$  Keats on the Isle of Wight, 2011, charcoal on paper, 30  $\times$  22 ins

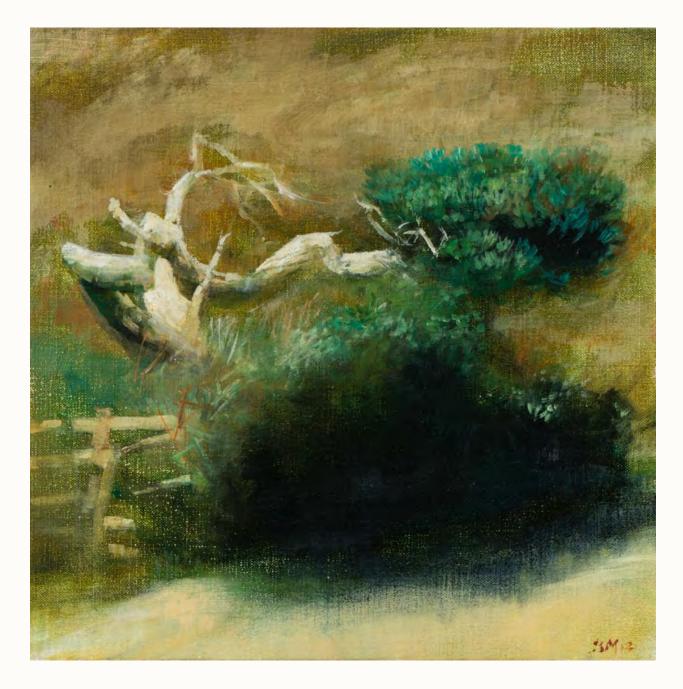


Cat no. 19 **Sheepwash**, 2006, oil on linen,  $40 \times 80$  ins



CAT NO. 20 Bird Hide at Newtown, 2013, oil on linen, 12  $\times$  12 ins





CAT NO. 21 Tree and Shadow 1, 2013, oil on linen, 12 × 12 ins



CAT NO. 22 Tree and Shadow 2, 2013, oil on linen, 12 × 12 ins



CAT NO. 23 Lighthouse, Rock and Crows, 2012, oil on linen, 30 × 40 ins





CAT NO. 24 The Tree at the Lighthouse Gate, 2013, oil on linen, 30 × 40 ins



CAT NO. 25 Magpie, 2007, oil on linen, 30 × 38 ins





CAT NO. 26 Tree and Magpie, 2010, charcoal on paper, 32 × 48 ins





CAT NO. 27 Tree and Daylight Moon, 2010 charcoal on paper, 32 × 48 ins





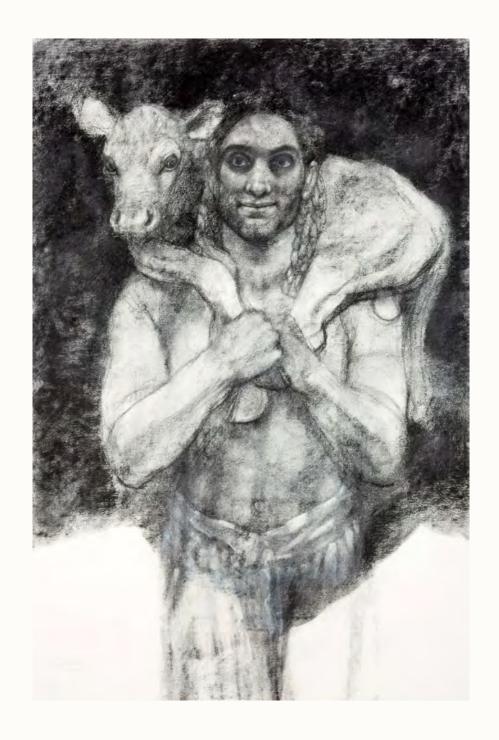




 $_{\text{CAT NO. }30}$  Keats's Heifer, 2011 charcoal/graphite on paper 32  $\times$  48 ins

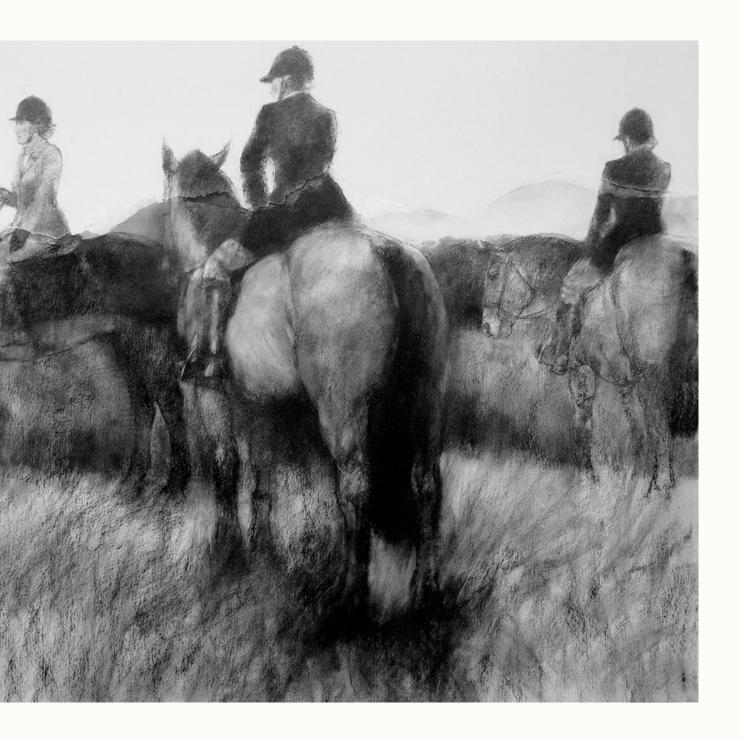


CAT NO. 31 **The Calf Bearer**, 2011, charcoal on paper,  $48 \times 32$  ins





CAT NO. 32 **Hunters**, 2006, charcoal on paper,  $48 \times 60$  ins



CAT NO. 33 Coastal Landscape with Dancers (after Claude), 1992, charcoal on paper, 46 × 48 ins





Sketch books and various reference books displayed at the exhibition



## BRIDGET MACDONALD

Bridget Macdonald was born on the Isle of Wight and now lives and works in Great Malvern, Worcestershire. She studied Fine Art at Stourbridge College of Art and the School of Art and Design, Wolverhampton Polytechnic in the mid 1980s

Her work is in the collections of The House of Lords at 1 Millbank; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery; Wolverhampton Art Gallery; Worcester City Art Gallery; and many corporate and private collections in the UK, USA, France, and Italy

She is represented by Art First, 21 Eastcastle Street, London, wiw 8DD www.artfirst.co.uk







Bridget Macdonald and Quay Arts thank C'ART Art Transport for transporting and hanging the exhibition

