

## Press Release

Leading colourist painter Hugo Grenville and alumni to celebrate the transforming effect of colour and light in a unique art exhibition at London's Bankside Gallery in 2020



Hugo Grenville | "The Late Year Lies Down the North" II | Oil on Canvas | 60" x 48"



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Bankside Gallery will deliver a welcome show of colour and light to London in January 2020 with 'Companions in Colour Exhibition', the culmination of a unique collaboration between a group of artists and their teacher, leading British romantic painter Hugo Grenville.

'Companions in Colour Exhibition' showcases the work of 14 artists who have benefited from Hugo's articulate, generous and inspirational teaching. From diverse backgrounds this group of artists has travelled with Hugo on an exciting journey into the world of painting, and this show presents a shared narrative of their individual experiences. They have learnt to look anew, wrestled with the problems of perspective, proportion and design, studied the infinite gradations of tone and, above all, explored their own emotional responses to colour.

Respected as one of the country's leading colourist painters with a background of 20 solo shows at major galleries in London, New York and Palm Beach, Hugo has also earned a reputation as an inspirational teacher. He began his teaching career in 1990 as the visiting tutor to the Gorhambury Group, before setting up the popular Red House Summer School in Suffolk. Under his guidance, painting was taught both as an idea and as a craft, and often with reference to what the modern masters themselves had written and said about painting. He lectured and taught at institutions such as Falmouth School of Art and the V & A Museum, and currently runs short courses and masterclasses in Bristol, Suffolk, Dorset and Portugal.

Hugo continues to find ways of enabling his students to express their feelings and ideas in paint, so that they can reveal their own distinct voice, and to use insights into the art of the past as inspiration for future development and practice. Referring to the forthcoming show at London's Bankside Gallery, he says "...As someone who has long championed the vitality and durability of painting in a world obsessed with the transient thrill of novelty, it is incredibly heartening to see a bunch of students who have become similarly inspired by both the timelessness and the emotional depth of painting, and have embraced this with individuality, talent and enthusiasm over the past 20 years. Some of my students are now very successful painters in their own right and many others are well on their way but all share the same excitement that I have for the precarious high-wire act of trying to describe the experience of living through the application of paint to canvas."

Artist Michael Crowe, winner of East of England Artist of the Year at the National Open Art Competition in 2017, feels fortunate to have studied with Hugo, revealing, "Essentially it is his passion for painting, and his deep knowledge of art, that he shares so articulately and generously with us..." that has helped to shape his own journey in painting. "In my case, over the last twenty years, his genuine guidance and encouragement have inspired me and been at the heart of my progress as a painter." Hugo's desire "to express our sense of existence through the transforming effect of colour and light," is what Michael feels to be "the essence of Hugo's teaching that has so inspired us all and is at the heart of the show."

The show is a celebration of individual experiences united by a shared passion for painting. Suffolk painter Sarah Muir Poland remembers the decision to attend a week-long course together with her son in 2003 as a pivotal moment during a difficult time in her life. She booked the course on impulse after spotting a notice about classes with a Suffolk colourist and says, "from that moment, my life changed. I was interested in colour before the class, and Hugo said I had colour sense, something that can't be taught. He made me feel confident and started me on a complete journey of painting."

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Landscape artist Frances Knight spends much time painting en plein air as it enables her to capture the transient effects of light and colour, by focusing on the overall visual effects instead of the details. Having attended many of Hugo's classes across the years, she has been inspired by his colour techniques and incorporates his approach into her style of painting. "He's such an inspirational and generous teacher. He's given me a whole new way of thinking about and expressing colours," she says.

Contemporary painter Laura Cramer feels that under Hugo's mentorship she was put through her paces, revisiting her "understanding of colour, tone and mark making" to find the "deeper level of complexity" that she was seeking in her work, while Norfolk artist Stina Burger, who started painting in watercolours, agrees, "I attended Hugo Grenville's Masterclass, and my introduction to painting in oils with him has helped my work and expression to develop."

Artist Wendy Parkes first studied with Hugo over 15 years ago and has attended a course every other year since. "He brings something new to each course, and I always take something new away," she says. "He is very perceptive, and puts a lot of energy into his teaching." Recalling being drawn to colour after a childhood growing up in Kenya, artist Deborah Menezes says, "I will never forget the vibrancy of the country or the quality of the light. Hugo's paintings are a celebration of colour, and under his guidance I have learnt to paint and use colour effectively. He is a source of constant inspiration to us all and it is a great privilege to be part of this exhibition."

The other artists in the exhibition include: Kerry Doyland, Carinthia Knight Gibbins, Sarah Howard, Ivana Jackson, Lelia Gerahty, Kathryn Lewis and Elizabeth St John.

'Companions in Colour' opens on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at London's Bankside Gallery, the home of the Royal Watercolour Society and the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers. This group exhibition presents an exploration of colour and light through the work of Hugo Grenville and his alumni, and will be available to view until Sunday 2nd February 2020.

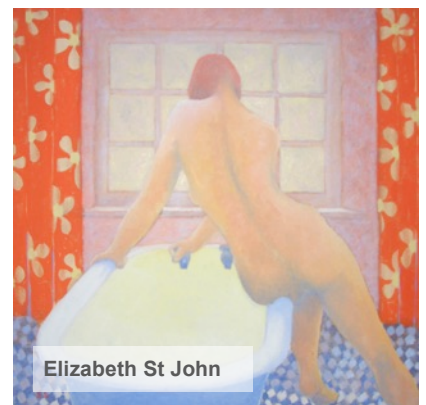
## **Companions in Colour: An Exploration of Colour and Light through the Work of Hugo Grenville and his Alumni**

**Exhibition** 28th January to 2nd February 2020, 11am to 6pm

**Private View** Tuesday 28th January, 6pm to 10pm

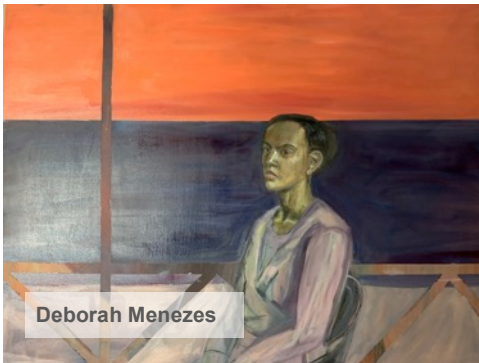
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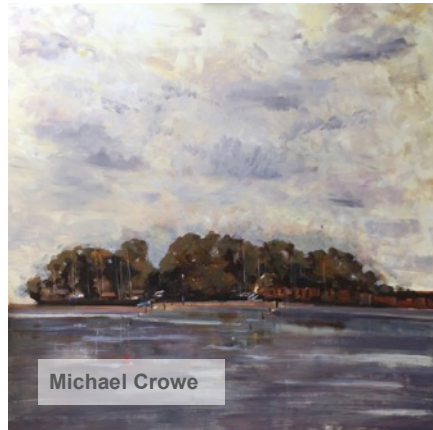




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Deborah Menezes



Michael Crowe



Carinthia Knight Gibbins



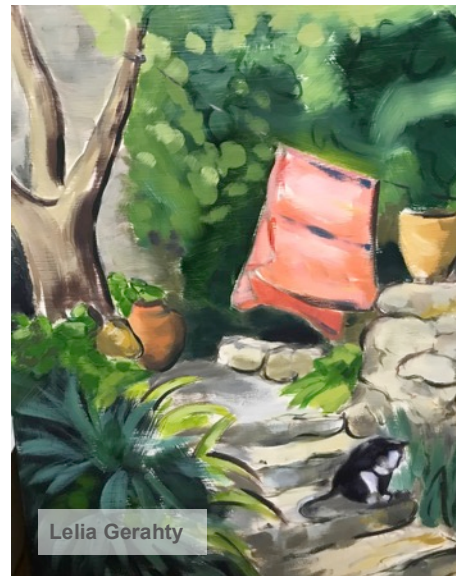
Frances Knight



Ivana Jackson



Kathryn Lewis



Lelia Gerahty



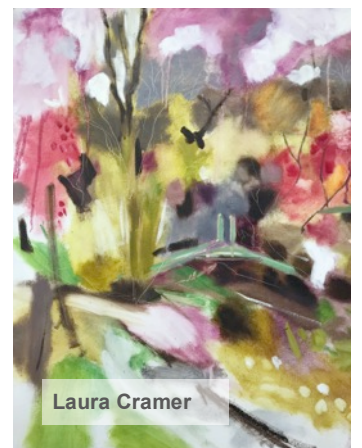
Wendy Parkes



Sarah Howard



Kerry Doyland



Laura Cramer