

Pigo Tato / The Potato Gatherers  
David Humphreys

THE GALLERY YR ORIEL NEWPORT IN PEMBROKESHIRE





1 front cover 2 above

Pigo Tato a'u Byd / The Potato Gatherers and Their World  
Charcoals, paintings and etching by  
David Humphreys



THE GALLERY YR ORIEL NEWPORT IN PEMBROKESHIRE

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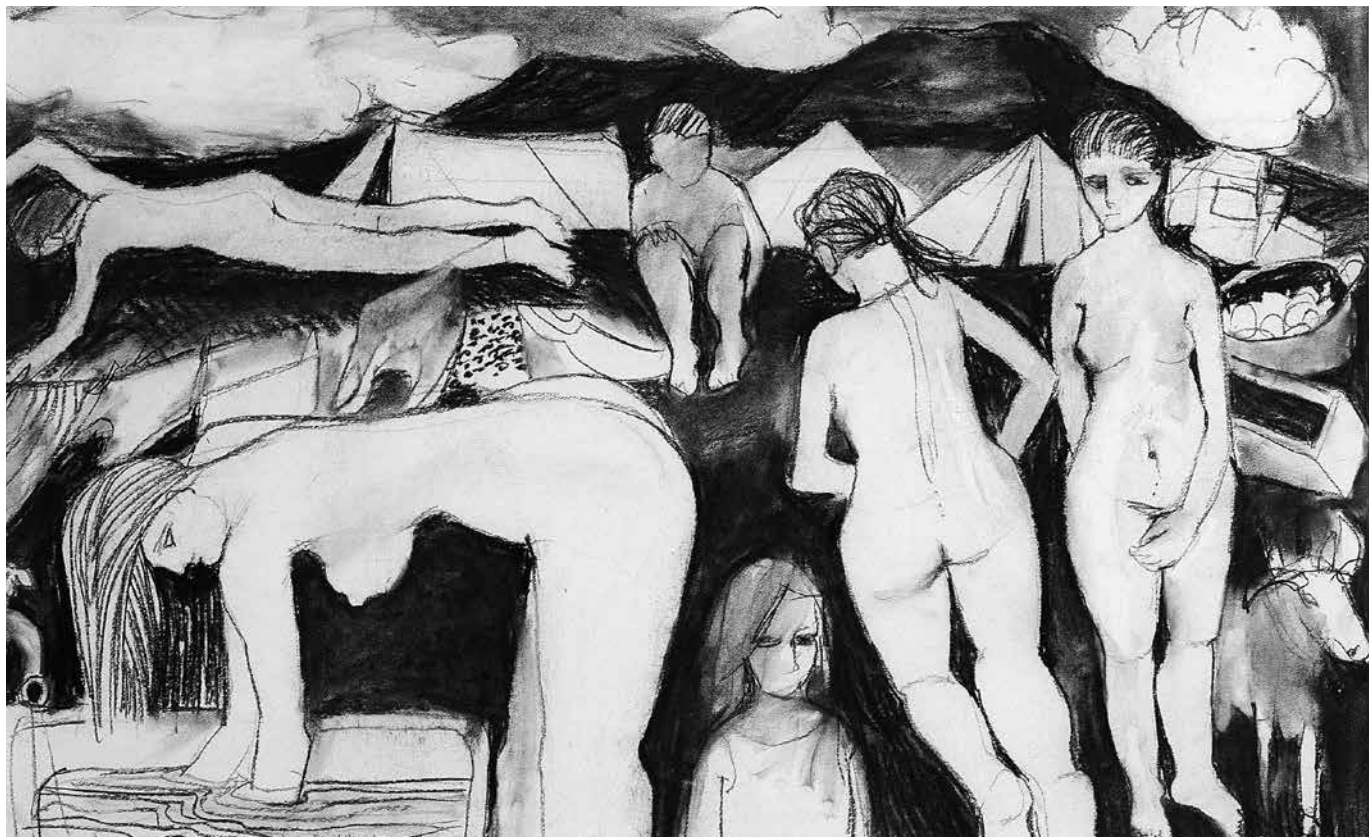
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These charcoal drawings were made in a few weeks in the summer in the late 1980's, when the artist was living in his van at Rhosson near St Davids in Pembrokeshire.

Some were later exhibited in Pembrokeshire and the Royal Cambrian Academy at Conwy.

Some of the works in this catalogue have already been sold (as indicated) and live in other lands, but the artist wanted to make some final meeting with these remaining spirits before they go to other worlds – after the short and intense spell in High Summer in Pembrokeshire, years ago when they were born.



Late one spring I was walking near St Davids and coming to the bend of a hidden road, came across a group of workers – men and women who had come to Pembrokeshire for the potato harvest. They were itinerant easy-going people who had set up camp at Clegyr Boia in vans and tents and huts – whatever shelter they could find for the short season before most likely going to Kent to pull vines and to Burgundy for the *vendage*.

These rough and ready folk wandered the little world of Summer like a lost tribe, following the fruitfulness of the earth, wresting precious fruits from her ample body. Of an evening I would wander towards their camp and hear a song or a guitar wafting between their fires and smells of cooking. The shouts and cries, giggles and whistles of their bubble and squeak twilight.

I was all the time reading the *Mabinogion* and the two worlds danced as one, the hedges flush with oak and broom and meadowsweet, furnishing many a bride of flowers for the Potato Gatherers – and spirits hovered overhead – the easy fecund women smiled as they washed the earth from their bodies and the air was full as the earth with song and ripeness.

The Season came and went – and with it the spirits of this Magic land, the yellow'd grasses greening as their footfall faded.

Yn hwyr un gwanwyn roeddwn yn cerdded ger Tŷ Ddewi ac wrth gyrraedd tro yn y ffordd gudd, fe ddeuthum ar draws criw o weithwyr – dynion a merched a oedd wedi dod i sir Benfro i gynaeafu tatws. Criw o grwydriaid hamddenol oedden nhw a oedd yn gwersylla yng Nghlegyr Boia mewn faniau a phebyll a chytiau – unrhyw gysgod a oedd ar gael yn ystod y tymor byr cyn gadael am Gaint mae'n debyg i hel hopys ac i wlad Bwrgwin i gasglu grawnwin.

Roedd y bobol arw a pharod hyn yn crwydro tir cyfrin yr haf fel llwyth coll, yn dilyn ffrwythlonder y ddaear, yn dwyn y ffrwythau gwerthfawr o'i chorff haelionus. Gyda'r nos byddwn yn crwydro i gyfeiriad eu gwersyll gan glywed ambell i gân neu sŵn gitâr yn codi rhwng eu tanau ac arogl eu bwyd. Galwad a gweiddi, chwerthin a chwiban eu cyfnos tatws llaeth.

Ar hyd yr adeg roeddwn yn darllen y *Mabinogi* ac roedd y ddau fyd yn dawnsio fel un, y gwrychoedd yn drwm gan dderw a banadl ac erwain, gan wisgo sawl priodferch flodau o blith y cynaeafwyr tatws – ac yr oedd ysbrydion yn hofran uwchben – a gwenai y merched ffrwythlon braf wrth olchi'r pridd o'u cyrff, ac yr oedd yr awyr mor drwm â'r ddaear gan ganeuon a ffrwythlonder.





















#### CHARCOALS, PAINTINGS AND ETCHING

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1 Couple with an Owl, 67 x 52 cm                                     | £4,950 |
| 2 The Dream of The Poet, 94 x 64 cm (Private collection New Zealand) |        |
| 3 The Fractious Child (etching, edition of 20), 4.5 x 4.5 cm         | £350   |
| 4 Old Harvester, 28 x 20 cm  | £1,500 |
| 5 The Coming of Evening, 120 x 74 cm                                 | £7,950 |
| 6 Twilight, 150 x 120 cm (Private collection Switzerland)            |        |
| 7 The Siren, 43 x 33 cm  | £2,500 |
| 8 The Carnival Queen, 150 x 120 cm (Private collection New Zealand)  |        |
| 9 Harvest Lands I, 48 x 90 cm  | £2,950 |
| 10 The Flight (charcoal and ink), 42 x 66 cm                         | £2,950 |
| 11 The Gleaner, 152 x 122 cm   | £7,500 |
| 12 Clegyr Boia (charcoal and ink), 57 x 38 cm                        | £2,950 |
| 13 Night Talk, 75 x 58 cm  | £4,500 |
| 14 Harvest Lands II, 24 x 40 cm                                      | £1,500 |
| 15 Annunciation, 94 x 66 cm  | £4,950 |
| 16 Harvesters, 75 x 28 cm  | £2,950 |
| 17 Heavenly Body Over Dewisland, 122 x 92 cm                         | £8,950 |
| 18 Dewisland – The Land of The Potato Gatherers, 46 x 30 cm          | £4,500 |

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