

ALICE
TENNANT

'HOMAGES'

June 16 – 1 July

2023





"The Rugby Players (After Rousseau)" watercolours 80cm x 100cm - £1,200

Front Cover: "Artiste Tennant (After Toulouse - Lautrec)" mixed media, 75cm x 90cm - **SOLD**



"Jar Tabac (After Fedden)" mixed media, 80cm x 80cm - **SOLD**



"Young Farmer (After Modigliani)" watercolours 70cm x 100cm - £895



"Neverm Gothic (After Wood)" watercolours 75cm x 100cm - **SOLD**



"Ad Angelorum (After Klee)" watercolours 100cm x 80cm - **SOLD**



"Sunset (After Klee)" mixed media 55cm x 55cm - £575



"Picnic at the Beach (After Cook)" watercolours 70cm x 100cm - £985



"Behind the Boat Club (After Seurat)" watercolours 55cm x 55cm - **SOLD**



"Over St. Mary's (After Chagall)" mixed media 100cm x 80cm - £1,150



"The Fall of Icarus (After Bruegel)" mixed media 100cm x 80cm - **SOLD**



Ophelia among the Flowers (After Redon)" mixed media 100cm x 80cm - **SOLD**



"The Cerne Abbas Giant Visits Carningli (After Ravilious)" mixed media 100cm x 80cm - £1,150



"Poppy Field at Berry Hill (After Monet)" mixed media 85cm x 65cm - £1,150

Alice Tennant

The idea for this show arose from a chance encounter with a Christmas card. A couple of years ago, my old friend Helen Manley Jones asked me to paint a small Christmassy picture for her winter show at The Gallery, Newport. While thinking about what to paint for her, I remembered the card she'd sent us the previous Christmas, 'Hunters in the Snow' by Pieter Bruegel.

It's a stunning painting, well known and much loved. After looking at it for a while, I imagined emerging from those woods and seeing Newport Bay and Carningli beyond, rather than the jagged peaks invented by Bruegel in the 16th century. Mountains like that don't exist in the Low Countries. It was a deliberately idealised view, intended to conjure a disappeared rural past, so I didn't feel it was too much of a stretch to set it here and now, in the landscape I know and love. I did it for fun really, but got totally absorbed, studying the picture in detail, figuring out how to transpose the location without losing the essence of the piece and what elements of modernity to introduce. I loved painting it - but it left me wanting to do more. So, when Helen asked me to put on another exhibition at The Gallery for 2023, this is what I chose to do.

The process has been a lot more taxing and stretching than I thought it would be. Selecting from so many iconic pieces resulted in quite a few dead ends, with several ending up in the bin. A few are closer to the original than others. Some came easily, others had to be wrestled into being. One of the most challenging aspects was that nearly all the paintings I chose were oil on canvas, whereas I work mainly in watercolour and on paper, neither of which take kindly to over working. Sometimes many attempts were needed to get the picture to work.

Despite occasionally questioning my choice of theme for this exhibition, I have actually really enjoyed the journey. It's challenged me and I've learnt a lot, and it's given me many ideas for future projects. I've been astonished by the extraordinary virtuosity of painters whose work I've long admired but have only really gained a glimpse into their practice by trying to compose and paint like them. I hope above all that these paintings will convey at least some of the spirit in which I undertook this experiment - admiration, inspiration, but mostly fun.

Alice Tennant May 2023

www.alicetennant.net





"Cafe Terrace at Night (After Van Gogh)" mixed media 80 x 100cm - **SOLD**

The Gallery Yr Oriel Newport Pembs SA42 0TB . 01239 821514 .

www.thegallery-yroriel.com

. Open Mon – Sat 10 - 5pm