

Beyond the Blue Horizon



Lachlan Goudie



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PORTLAND GALLERY

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Cover: *Grand Bleu (detail)*, Acrylic on board, 34 x 38 ¼ in / 86 x 97 cm

Back cover: *Moonrise*, Acrylic on board, 30 x 40 ¼ in / 76 x 102 cm



Paintings from the South of France and the Indian Ocean...

En Voyage, 2022
Acrylic on board
30 x 40 in / 76 x 102 cm

When I tell people that I am travelling to the South of France or the Indian Ocean for work, I often receive a raised eyebrow of disbelief in response. After all, the idea of an artist 'working' in the tropics prompts most people to imagine visions of me painting from an inflatable Lilo, my brushes lubricated in Piña Colada.

But many of my painting heroes produced some of their greatest work when they travelled for inspiration. Winslow Homer regularly visited the Caribbean between 1884-1905 and filled his sketchbooks with delicious watercolours. In 1913 the Scottish Colourist J.D. Fergusson declared 'More sun, more colour!', before he headed to the Côte d'Azur for the first time.

And for an artist 'more sun' does tend to mean more colour. The strong light of the Tropics and the Mediterranean saturates the landscape. It intensifies the shades of green you find in a palm grove, it bounces off ripples on a turquoise sea and filters through the humid, hot atmosphere of a lagoon to create unexpected tones.

During my visits to Mauritius and the Côte d'Azur in 2022, my challenge was to capture those sunbeams in paint. After years of lockdown the experience of working outside at my easel, surrounded by the unfamiliar sounds and perfumes of a foreign place, felt more invigorating than ever.

The smaller gouache and watercolour paintings that feature in this, my first exhibition with the Portland Gallery, were all created on location. They are a spontaneous response to each new location. These images are fuelled by the excitement of leaving a London autumn behind. I am unapologetic about their aim; to convey a sense of optimism, to reproduce not only an appearance but the sensual pleasure of being alive and working in a vivid, beautiful place.

These paintings are accompanied in this exhibition by a series of larger works and still lifes which were completed on my return to the studio. They are inflected with the memory of my recent journeys; some sand in the brushes, remembered birdsong, a richer palette of pigments than usual.

Working on a bigger format was an opportunity to use my sketches and construct more complex paintings. It's in this studio process that recollections can be refined. Events, like the return of fishing boats across the lagoon, could be distilled into simpler and stronger compositions. The shapes of pine trees on the Mediterranean or palm leaves in Mauritius could be used to underpin the design of a whole new painting.

I have tried to compress the entirety of my recent experiences into this exhibition. These works are an invitation to travel with me beyond the blue horizon, and to seize a little more of the sun and colour we all so desperately need.

Sundowner
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



Every evening in the tropics was marked by an extraordinary sunset. But once the sun had finally dipped beneath the horizon the sky appeared to glow, for a short time, with the afterburn of another day in paradise. In that twilight the emergence of the moon, the stars and a returning fishing boat would synchronise into a moment of intense calm.

Moonrise
Acrylic on board
30 x 40 ¼ in / 76 x 102 cm





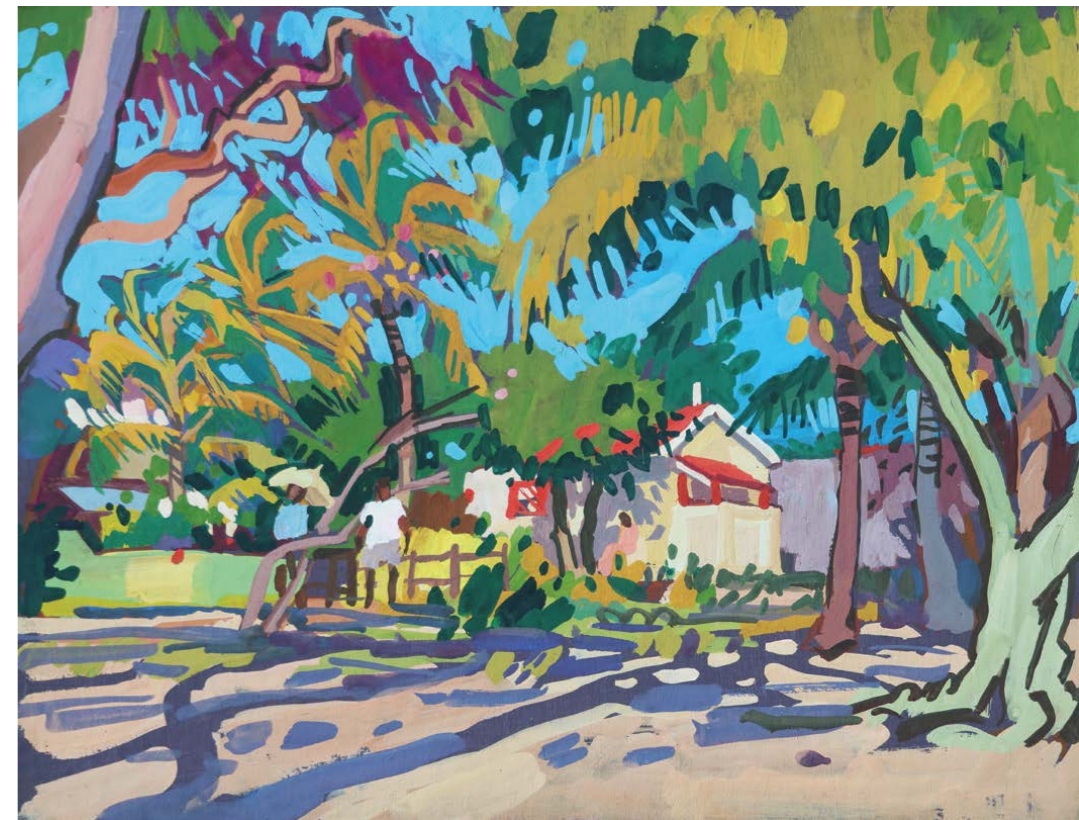
Calodyne Sunset
 Gouache on board
 10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm

The Turquoise Lagoon
 Gouache on board
 15 x 19 3/4 in / 38 x 50 cm





Paradise
Acrylic on board
34 x 38 ¼ in / 86 x 97 cm



Village Life
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



Tropic of Capricorn
Gouache on board
15 x 19 3/4 in / 38 x 50 cm



Treasure Island
Gouache on board
15 x 19 3/4 in / 38 x 50 cm



Surf's Edge
Pencil and watercolour on paper
20 ½ x 26 ½ in / 52 x 67 cm



Wanderlust
Pencil and watercolour on paper
20 ½ x 26 ½ in / 52 x 67 cm



Morning Catch
Gouache on board
15 x 19 ¾ in / 38 x 50 cm



Morning Calm
Gouache on board
15 x 19 ¾ in / 38 x 50 cm



From the Flower Garden
Gouache on board
15 x 19 ¾ in / 38 x 50 cm



Verandah
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



Sunseeker
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



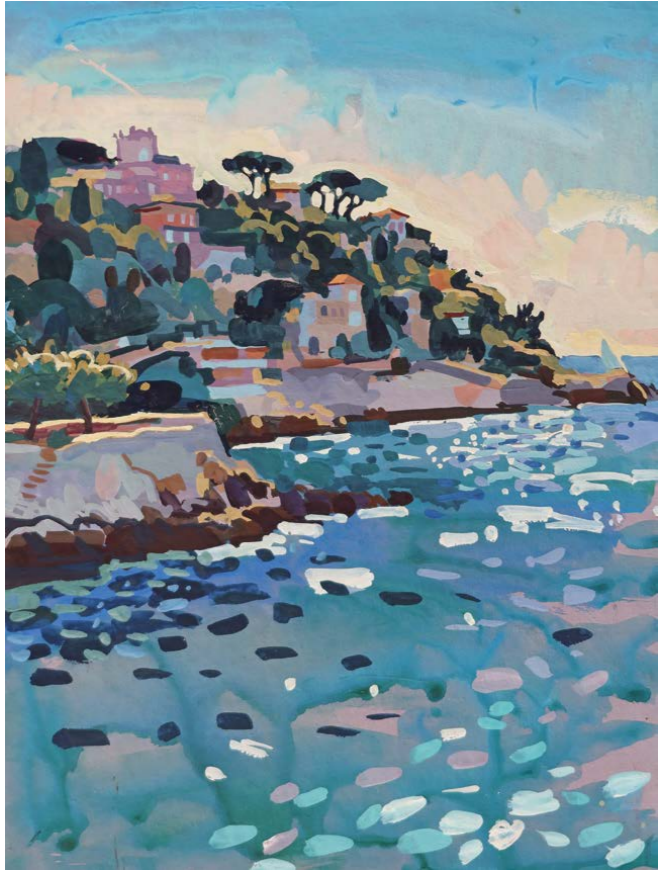
Afternoon on the Indian Ocean
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



The Red Church
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



The Blue Hut
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



Morning on the Mediterranean
Gouache on board
13 x 10 in / 33 x 25 cm

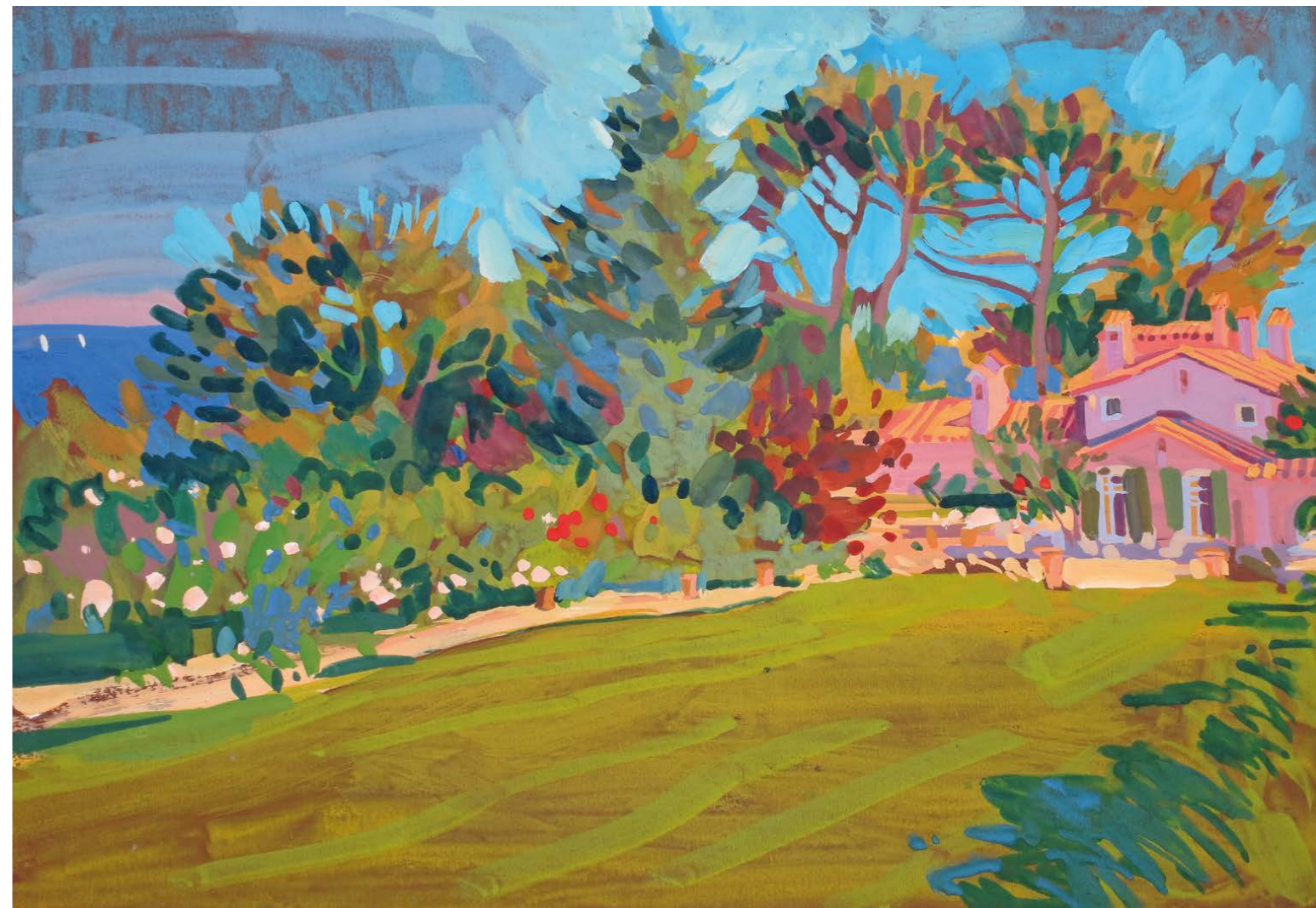
In the late afternoon in Nice the sailing school heads back into the harbour. With the sun dancing across the water's surface, the sails of the 'Optimists' move in and out of the light. In the distance the coastline of the Côte d'Azur extends off towards Antibes and Cannes. For me it was a beautiful and timeless subject to paint.

Grand Bleu
Acrylic on board
34 x 38 ¼ in / 86 x 97 cm





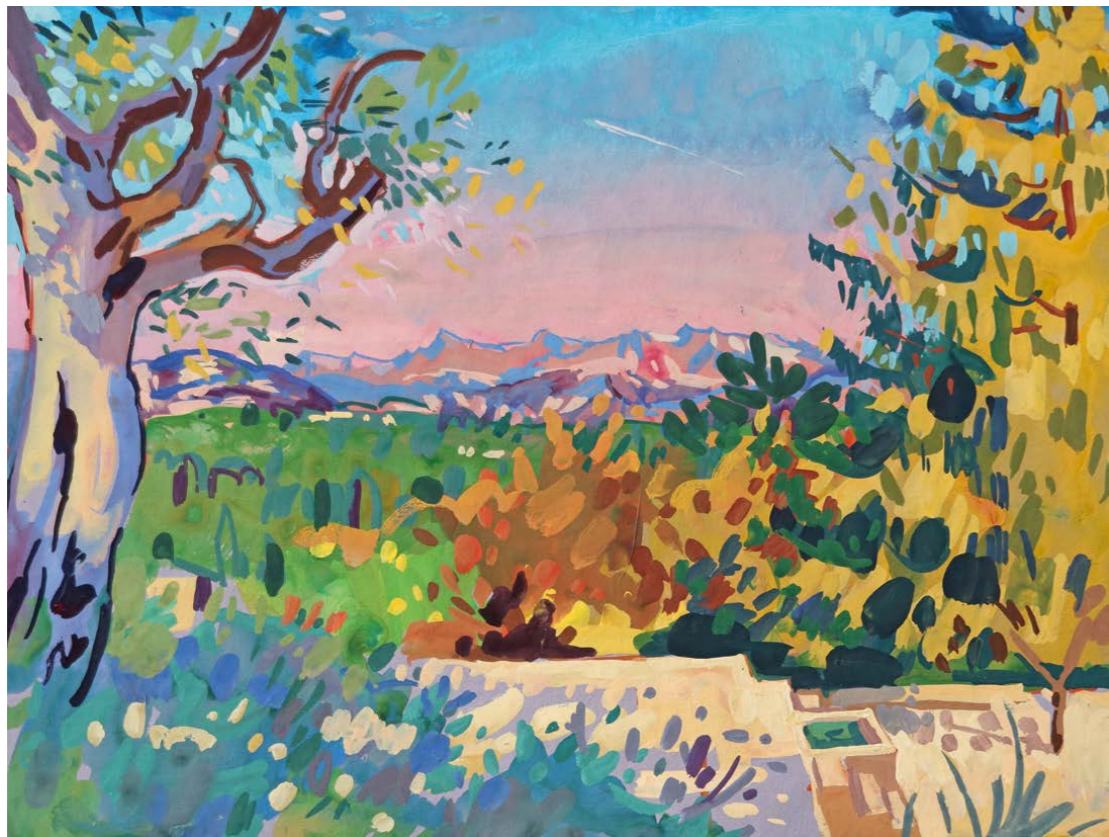
Villa in the Pines
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



L'Orangerie
Gouache on board
10 1/2 x 15 in / 27 x 38 cm

Sun-up on the Mediterranean
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm





Alpes Maritimes
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm

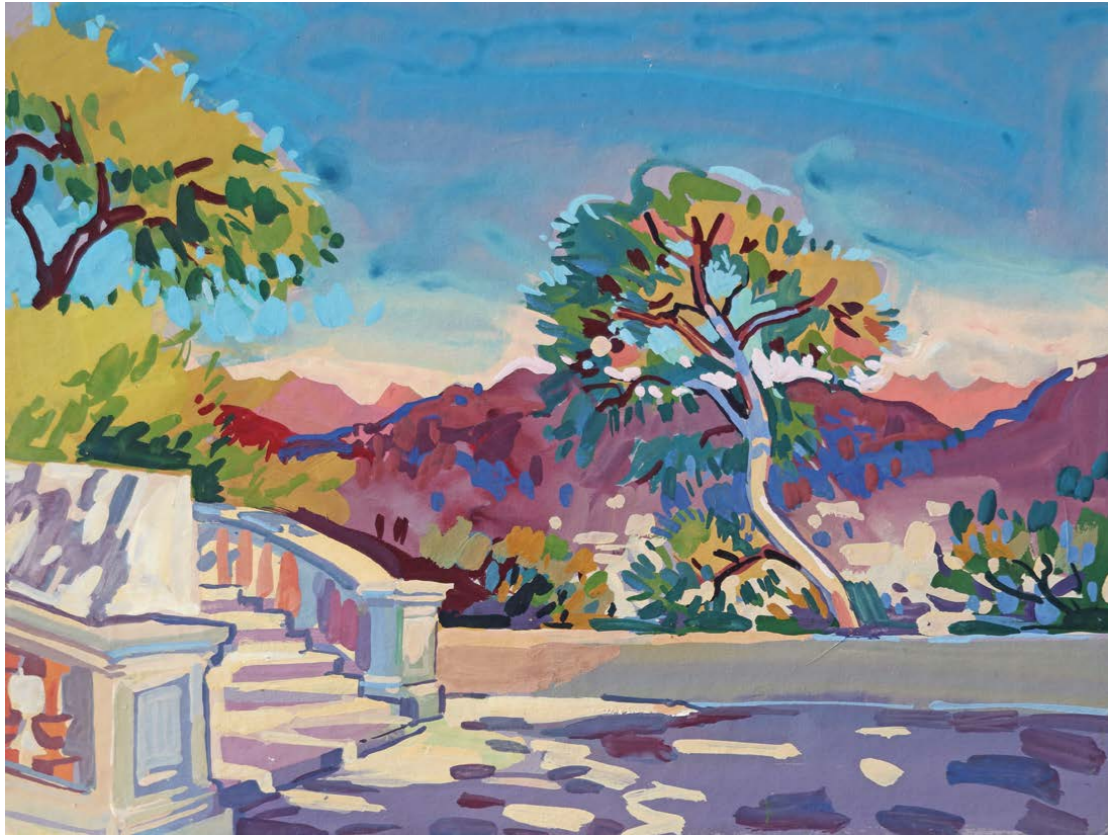


Evening in Nice
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm

My preferred method of painting on the move is to work with Gouache on board. Sitting in a secluded spot I can immerse myself in the landscape, responding spontaneously to the subtle changes in light and colour. This view was painted in the gardens of the Villa Rothschild. I spent hours watching the yachts as they sailed across the bay between me and Villefranche, catching glimpses of them through the branches of the sheltering pine trees.

Vue sur Villefranche
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm





La Terrasse
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm

The Fort Villefranche
Gouache on board
10 x 13 in / 25 x 33 cm



My mother is French and lives in Nice. Her windows look out across a neighbourhood park filled with cypresses and palm trees. The view is framed by the shutters and iron railings of her balcony. And whilst these components of the composition never change the colours are constantly evolving. From morning to evening, from autumn to spring - it's a subject I have returned to time and again.

Le Balcon

Pencil and watercolour on paper
20 ½ x 26 ½ in / 52 x 67 cm



Sweet Remedy
Oil on linen
15 3/4 x 15 3/4 in / 40 x 40 cm



Lachlan Goudie (b.1976)

Selected Exhibitions

- 2022 *Painting Paradise*, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2020 *Once Upon a Time*, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2019 *Shipyard*, The Glasgow Art Club, Glasgow
- 2018 *A year at the easel*, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
Shipyard, National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth
- 2017 *Shipyard*, The Scottish Maritime Museum, Irvine
- 2015 *New Paintings: Lachlan Goudie and Tim Benson*, Mall Galleries, London
A Place in the Sun, The Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Glasgow
- 2014 *These precious things*, The Elizabeth Harris Gallery, New York
- 2012 *Still life and the Opera*, Glyndebourne, Lewes
Lands of Streams and Timber, The Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Glasgow
- 2011 *A True Wilderness Heart*, The Elizabeth Harris Gallery, New York
The River Runs through it, Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, Glasgow
- 2010 *Of the Moment*, Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Glasgow
- 2009 *Dreaming Places*, The Elizabeth Harris Gallery, New York

Awards and Recognition

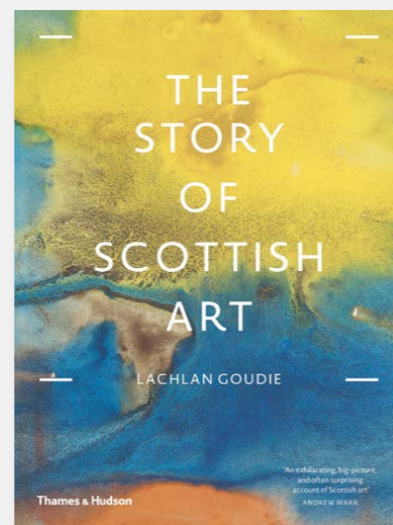
- 2013 Elected a full member of The Royal Society of Painters in Oil Colour

W & N Award for Young Artists: The Royal Society of Painters in Oil Colour
The Norman MacFarlane Charitable Trust Award: Royal Scottish Academy
Royal College of Physicians Award: The Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts
The Levy-Plumb scholarship in the Visual Arts: University of Cambridge

Education

- 2004 Camberwell College of Arts, The London Institute
- 1999 Christ's College, University of Cambridge

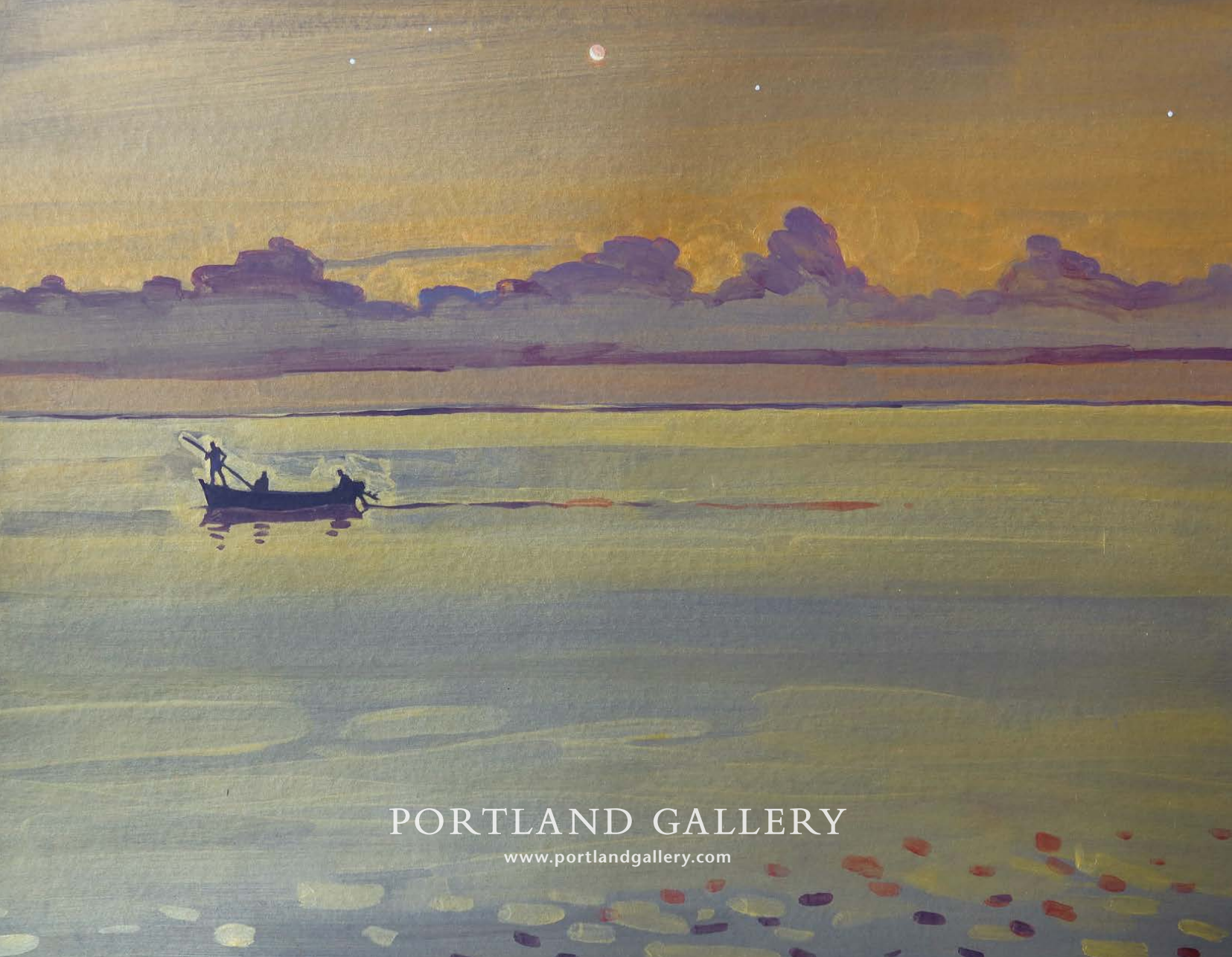
Copies of Lachlan's recent book *The Story of Scottish Art* will be available to purchase at the gallery.



The compelling story of over 5,000 years of Scottish art, told by Lachlan Goudie

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