

Gordon Mitchell

NEW PAINTINGS



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27 March – 12 April 2024

Monday – Friday
10am – 6pm
and by appointment

PORTLAND GALLERY

www.portlandgallery.com

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Front cover: *Asylum Seekers*. Oil on canvas. 40 x 48 in / 101.5 x 122 cm

Gordon Mitchell **New Paintings**

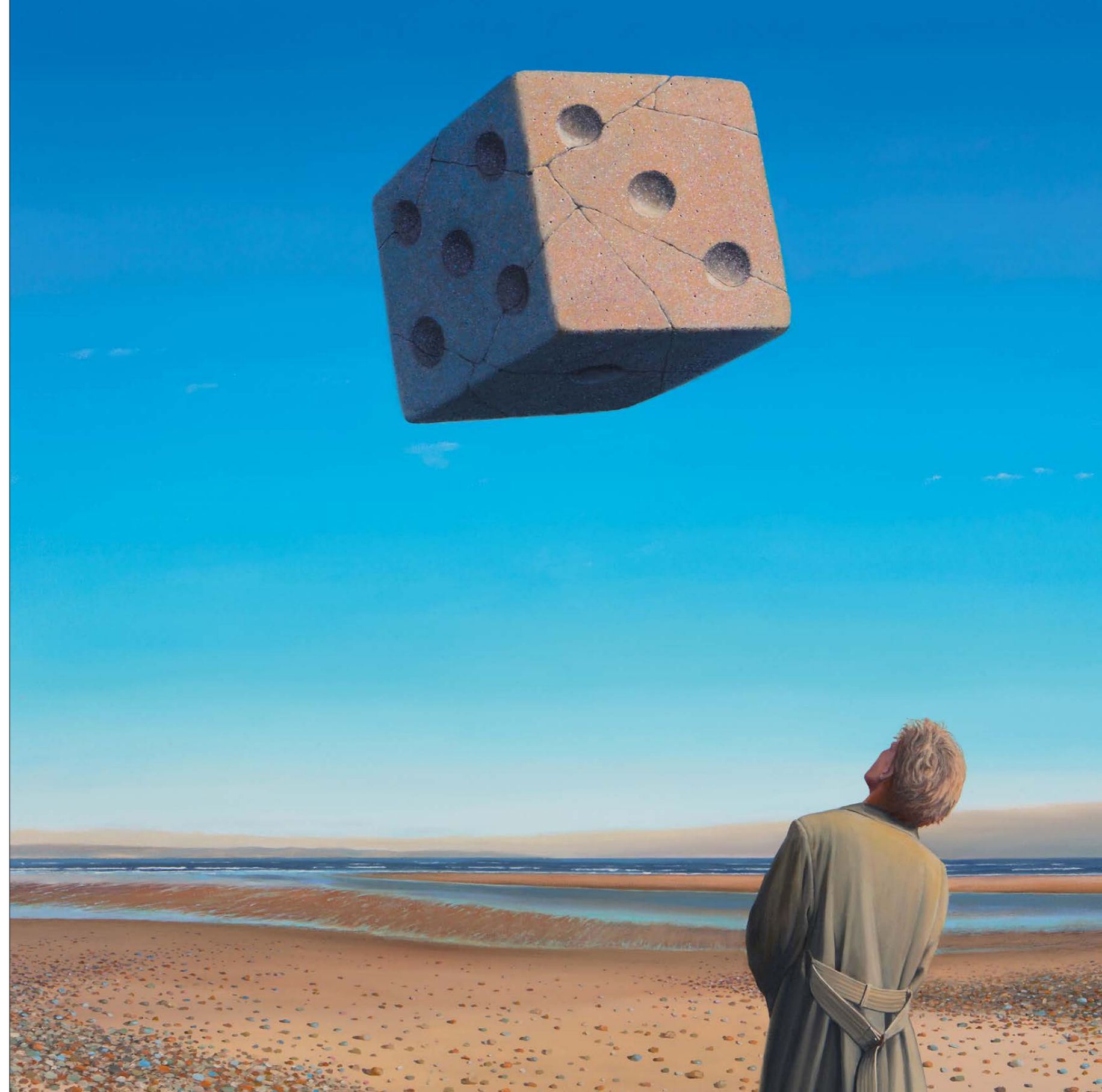
Portland Gallery is delighted to present over fifty witty and inventive paintings by Gordon Mitchell. Recalling objects and landscapes from his photographic memory, this body of works depicts still lifes, human figures and animals set against fictitious and often deliberately generic backdrops.

Gordon Mitchell's paintings are the ordinary turned extraordinary. From Elephants in row boats and luggage being carried away by balloons, his vivid imagination and attention to detail makes every scene feel almost plausible. Idyllic beaches and peaceful countryside are juxtaposed by whimsical images of puffins carried in paint tins and mermaids in a free-standing body of water. The influence of René Magritte is evident in each work despite the artist not considering his own paintings as surreal; dream-like landscapes with floating motifs and hidden figures transform the everyday into logic-defying scenes of wonder.

Human figures and nudes feature strongly in a number of Mitchell's paintings. Although reimagined (for instance) in the carving of a pear or apple, these nudes are reminiscent of classical marble sculpture, creating a dialogue between art history and fantasy. Faces and figures can also be found in the cracks of a wall or the peeling paint of a weathered shutter. The viewer is always rewarded when concentrating on seemingly innocuous detail.

Humour is a key element throughout as Mitchell aims to find the fun in the ordinary. By using puns and double entendre to describe his paintings, works such as *Houseboat* and *Squash* have a literal and comedic quality, reflecting Mitchell's own personality. The titles themselves are an extension of the artworks, as they give voice to the artist's subject matter. The intellectual charm of Gordon Mitchell's work is a consistent throughout his painting practice, and particularly in the works selected for this exhibition.

Twenty One
Oil on canvas
36 x 40 in / 91.5 x 101.5 cm
Catalogue No. 3





Fairie Dance
Oil on canvas
30 x 24 in / 76 x 61 cm
Catalogue No. 17



Gone Walkabout
Oil on canvas
10 x 10 in / 25.5 x 25.5 cm
Catalogue No. 52



Love Token
Oil on canvas
10 x 10 in / 25.5 x 25.5 cm
Catalogue No. 51



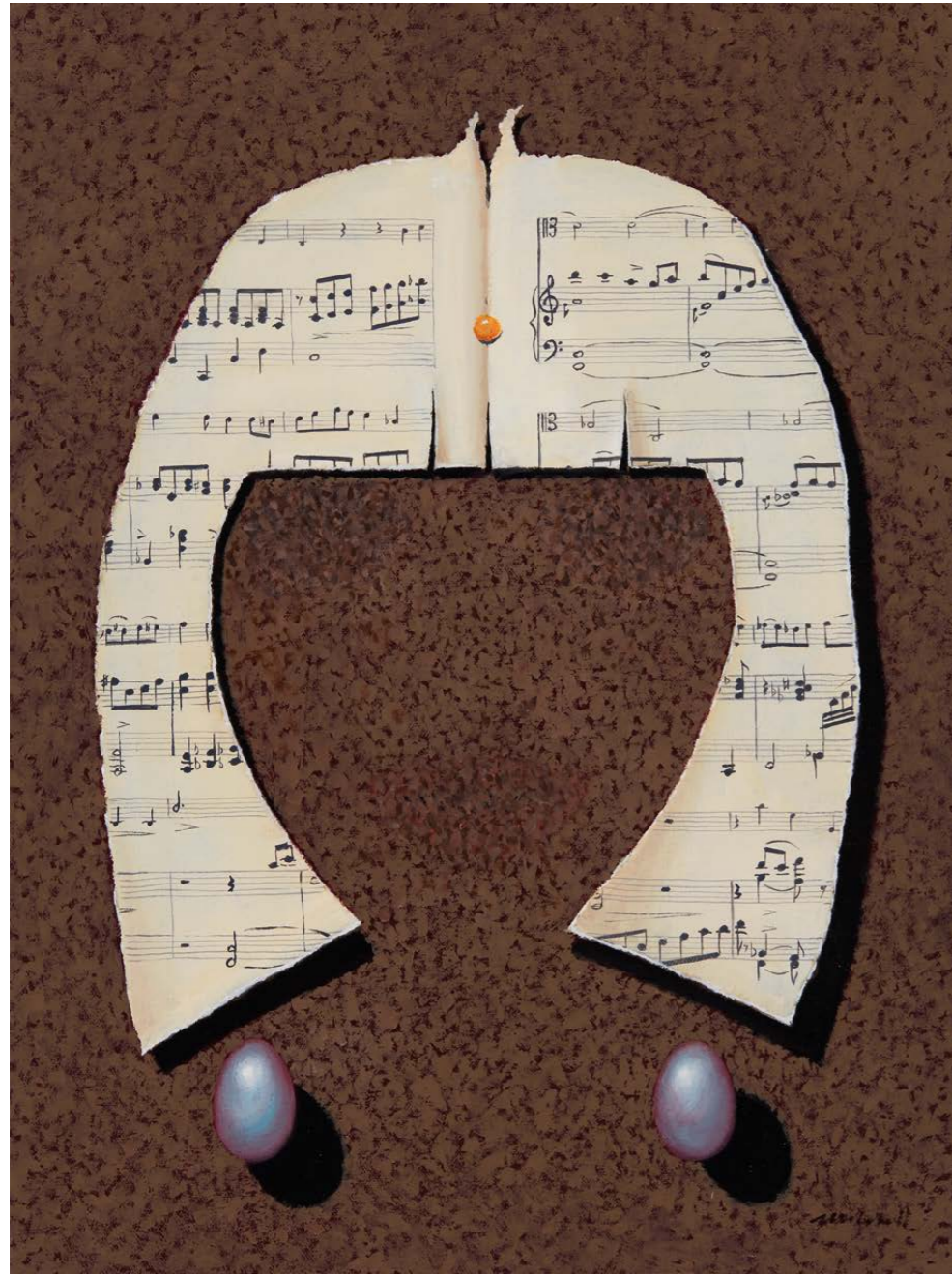
Beach Bandit
Oil on canvas
18 x 14 in / 46 x 35.5 cm
Catalogue No. 32



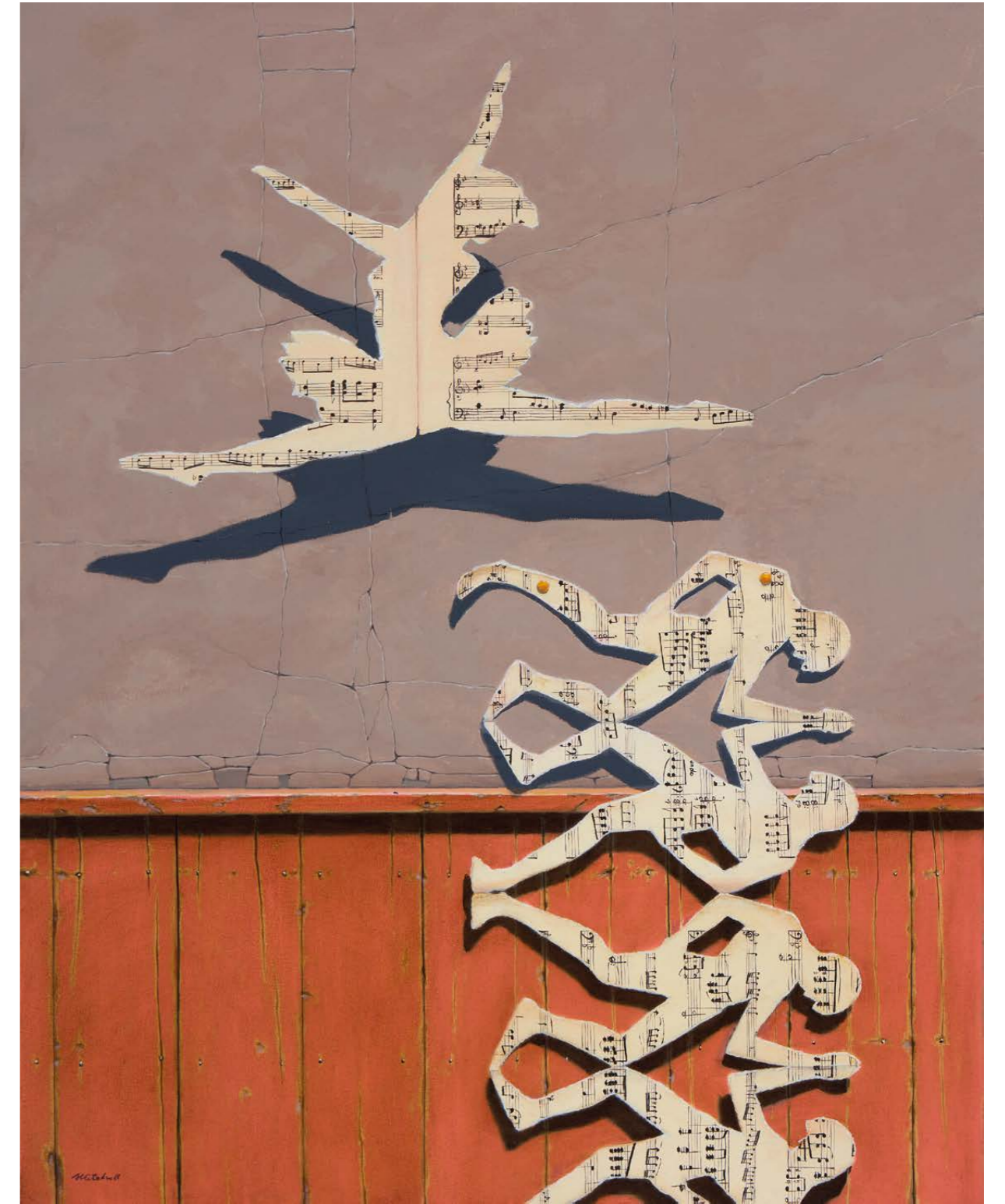
Decoys
Oil on canvas
30 x 36 in / 76 x 91.5 cm
Catalogue No. 32



Two Piece
Oil on canvas
24 x 30 in / 61 x 76 cm
Catalogue No. 12



Cleo
Oil on canvas
16 x 12 in / 41 x 30.5 cm
Catalogue No. 42



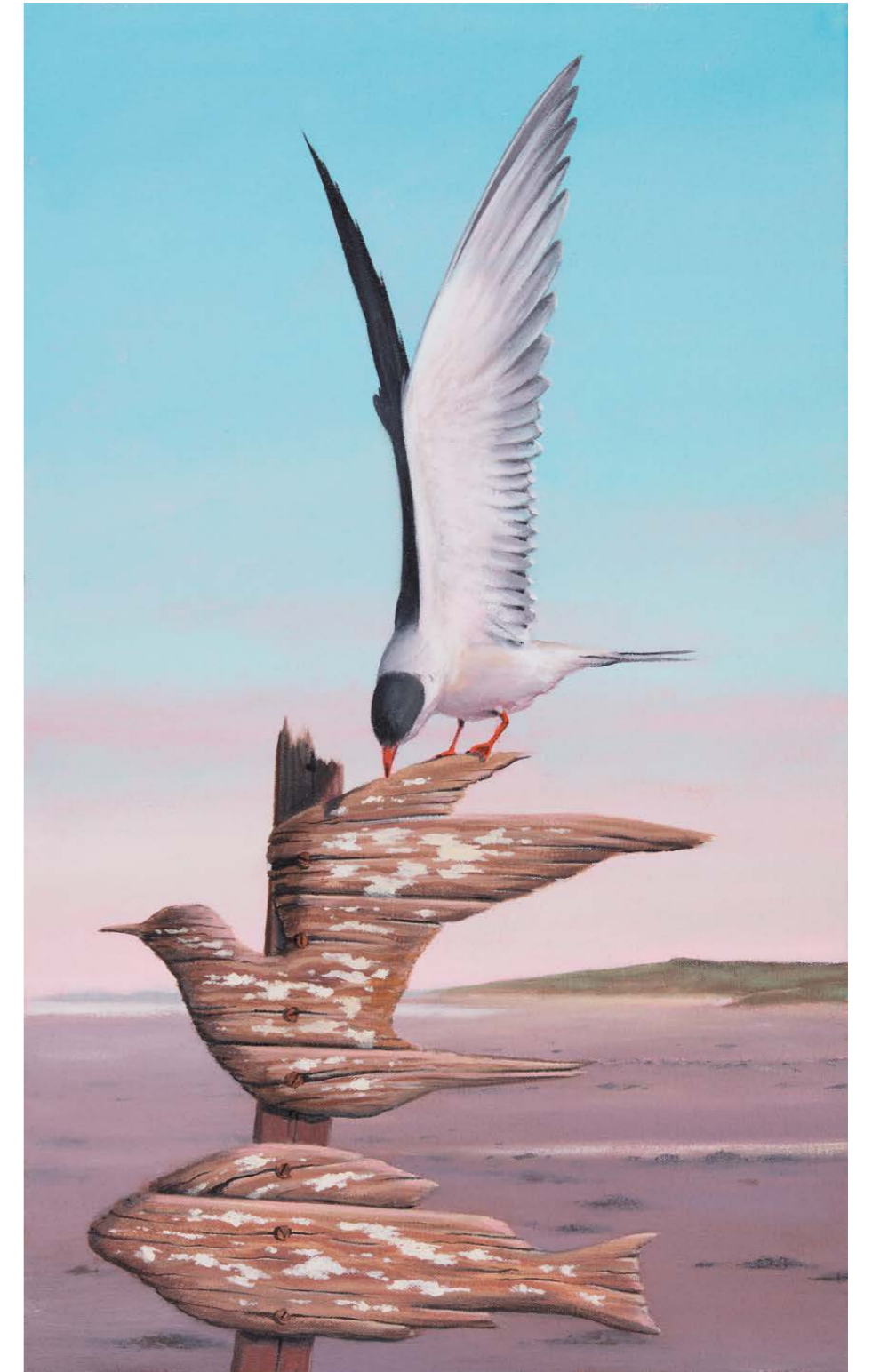
Vivaldi Concerto
Oil on canvas
30 x 24 in / 76 x 61 cm
Catalogue No. 16



Winter Wonderland
Oil on canvas
40 x 48 in / 101.5 x 122 cm
Catalogue No. 2



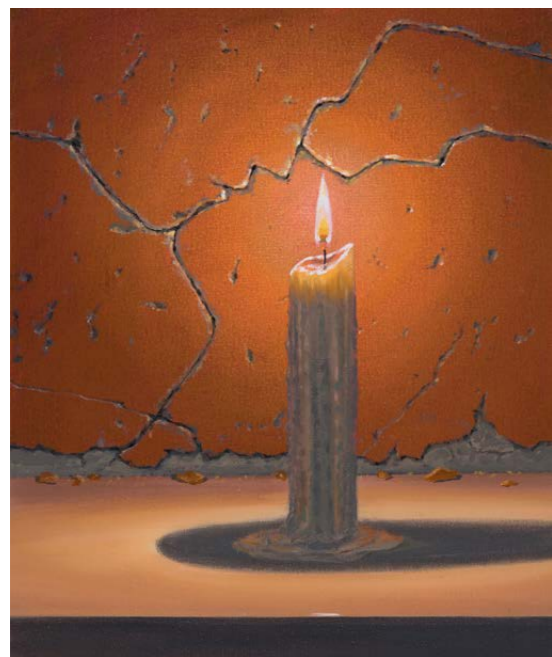
Houseboat
Oil on canvas
31 x 36 in / 79 x 91.5 cm
Catalogue No. 5



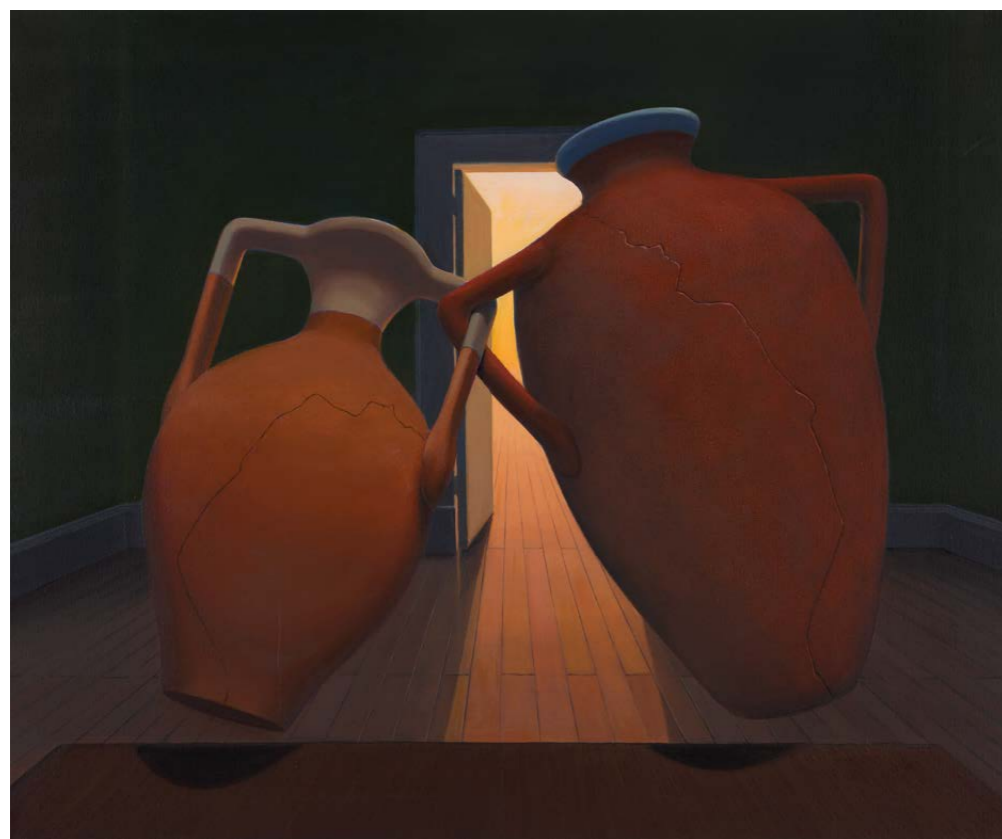
En Passant
Oil on canvas
20 x 12 in / 51 x 30.5 cm
Catalogue No. 34



Asylum Seekers
Oil on canvas
40 x 48 in / 101.5 x 122 cm
Catalogue No. 1



Night Moves
Oil on canvas
12 x 10 in / 30.5 x 25.5 cm
Catalogue No. 47



Portal
Oil on canvas
20 x 24 in / 51 x 61 cm
Catalogue No. 22



Caffeine Hit
Oil on canvas
24 x 30 in / 61 x 76 cm
Catalogue No. 18

One Way Ticket
Oil on canvas
40 x 31 in / 101.5 x 79 cm
Catalogue No. 4





Evening of Wonder
Oil on canvas
20 x 24 in / 51 x 61 cm
Catalogue No. 21



Venetian Valet
Oil on canvas
20 x 16 in / 51 x 40.5 cm
Catalogue No. 27



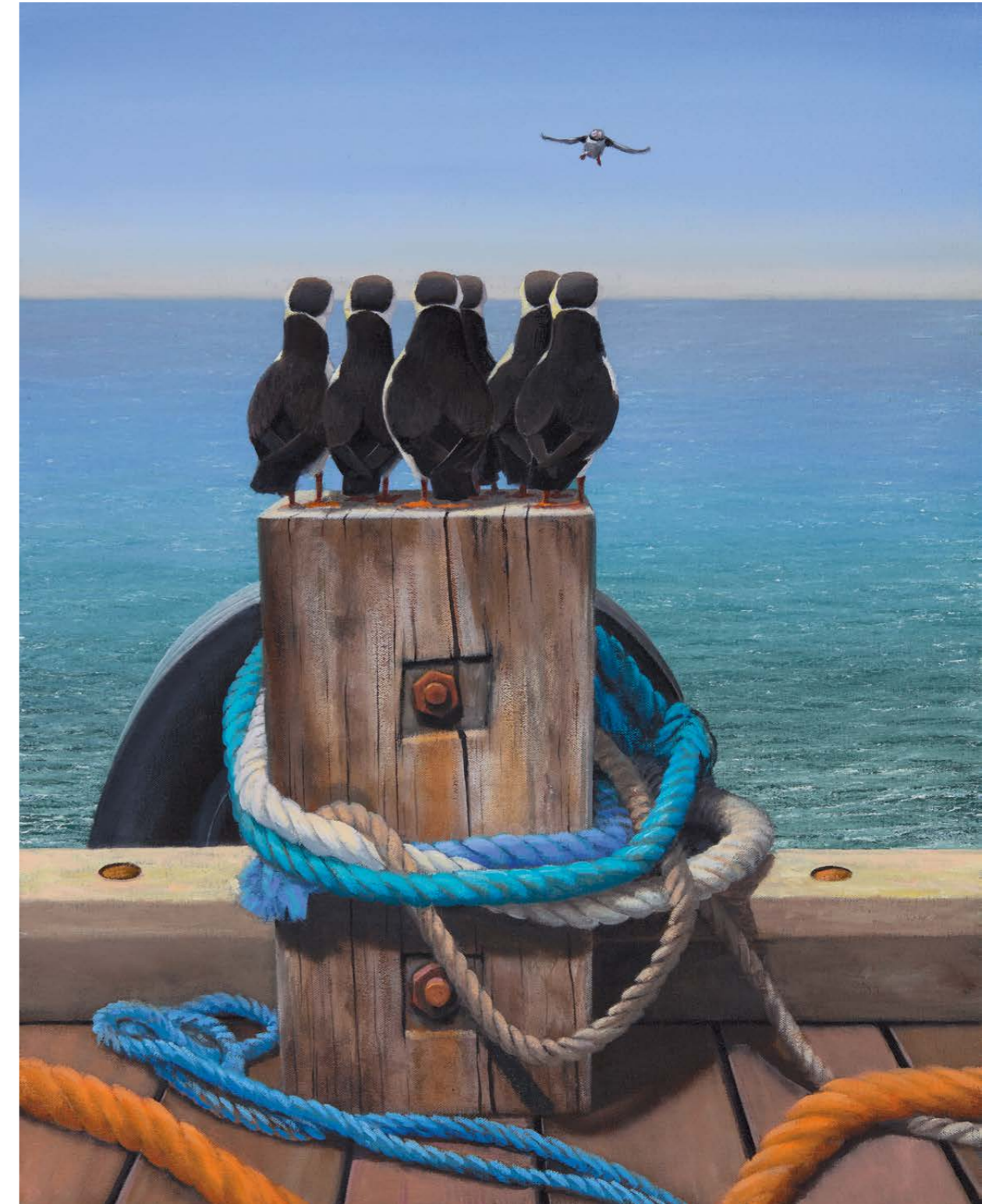
Morning Glory
Oil on canvas
24 x 30 in / 61 x 76 cm
Catalogue No. 13



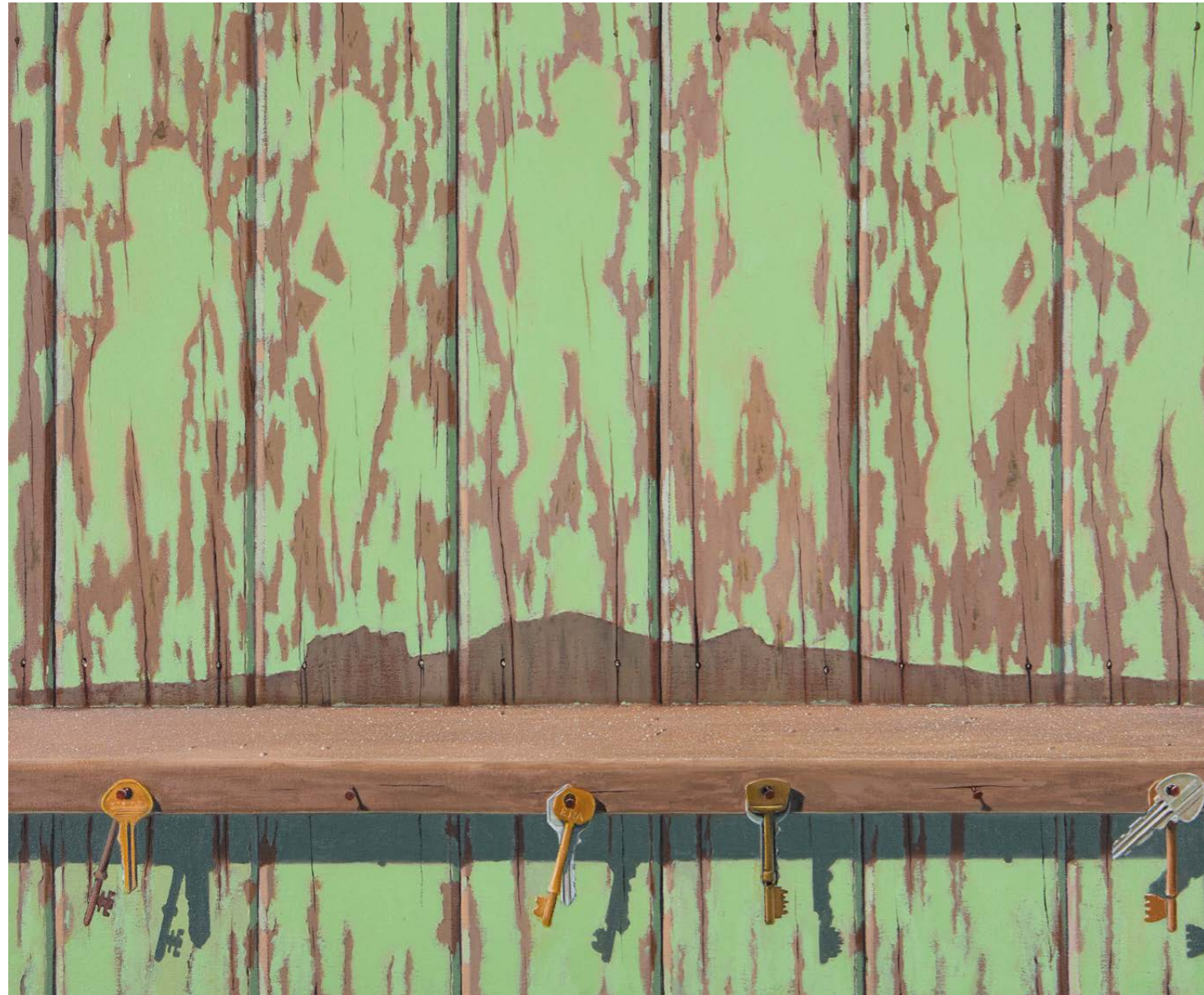
Air Sea Rescue
Oil on canvas
16 x 12 in / 41 x 30.5 cm
Catalogue No. 41



Little Auk
Oil on canvas
10 x 12 in / 25.5 x 30.5 cm
Catalogue No. 49



Welcoming Committee
Oil on canvas
20 x 16 in / 51 x 40.5 cm
Catalogue No. 29



Friends + Lovers
Oil on canvas
20 x 24 in / 51 x 61 cm
Catalogue No. 23



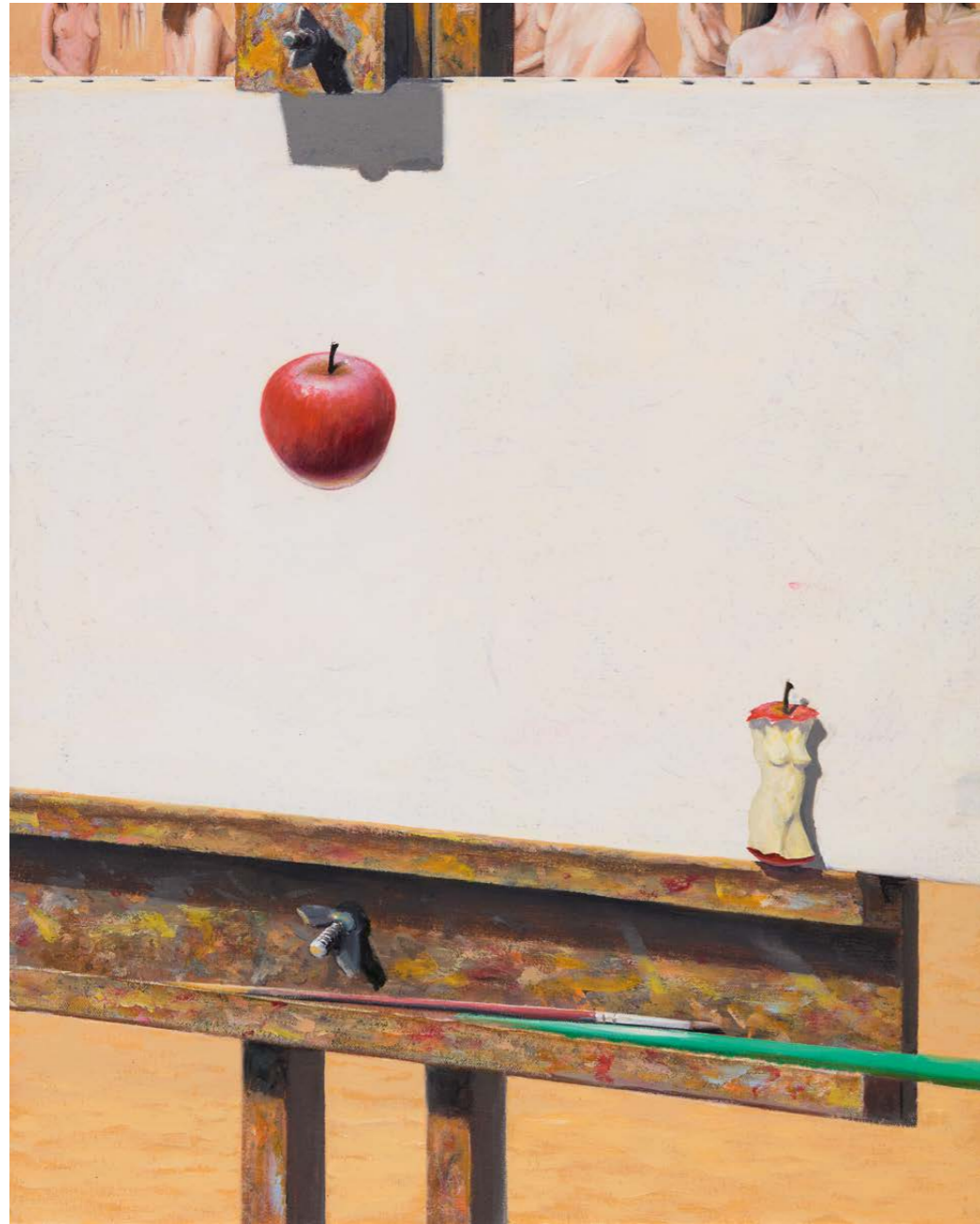
Nymphettes
Oil on canvas
30 x 36 in / 76 x 91.5 cm
Catalogue No. 10



Cocksure
Oil on canvas
20 x 24 in / 51 x 61 cm
Catalogue No. 19



Eggs Over Easy
Oil on canvas
30 x 36 in / 76 x 91.5 cm
Catalogue No. 8



Art of the Subconscious
Oil on canvas
18 x 14 in / 46 x 35.5 cm
Catalogue No. 33



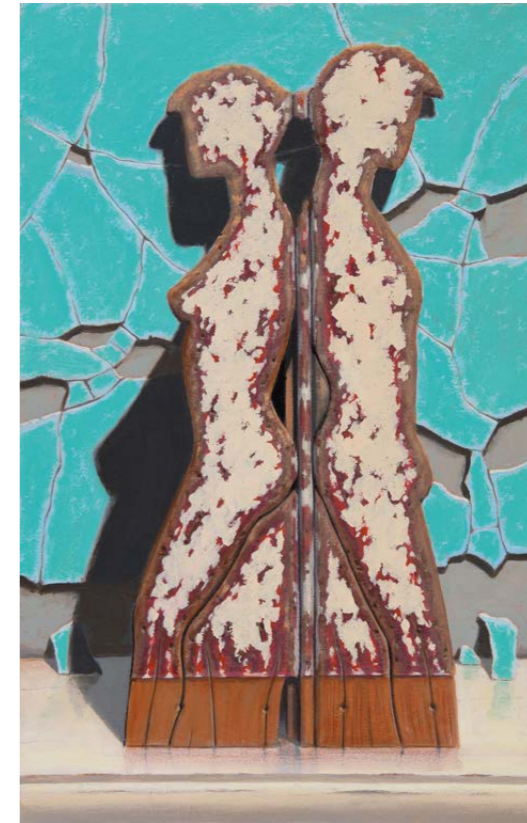
Golden Delicious
Oil on canvas
10 x 12 in / 25.5 x 30.5 cm
Catalogue No. 50



Orchard Wall
Oil on canvas
12 x 20 in / 30.5 x 51 cm
Catalogue No. 37



Pets at Home
Oil on canvas
18 x 22 in / 46 x 56 cm
Catalogue No. 26



Skim Tongue + Simon Groove
Oil on canvas
16 x 12 in / 41 x 30.5 cm
Catalogue No. 44



Panellists
Oil on canvas
12 x 16 in / 30.5 x 41 cm
Catalogue No. 46



Stable Relationship
Oil on canvas
20 x 16 in / 51 x 40.5 cm
Catalogue No. 31



Ever After
Oil on canvas
20 x 16 in / 51 x 40.5 cm
Catalogue No. 28



Venetian Illusion
Oil on canvas
20 x 10 in / 51 x 25.5 cm
Catalogue No. 38



Cardboard Cutout
Oil on canvas
24 x 20 in / 61 x 51 cm
Catalogue No. 25



Mother Goose
Oil on canvas
24 x 30 in / 61 x 76 cm
Catalogue No. 14



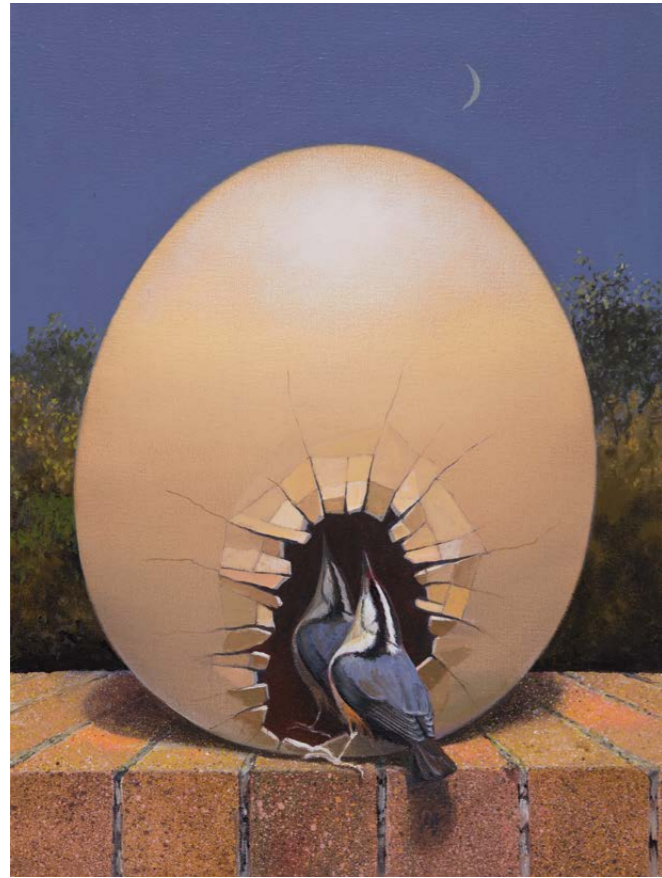
Harbour Light
Oil on canvas
20 x 10 in / 51 x 25.5 cm
Catalogue No. 39



Home Entertainment
Oil on canvas
30 x 36 in / 76 x 91.5 cm
Catalogue No. 9



Wallflower
Oil on canvas
16 x 20 in / 40.5 x 51 cm
Catalogue No. 30



Echo Chamber
Oil on canvas
16 x 12 in / 41 x 30.5 cm
Catalogue No. 43



Big American Cousin
Oil on canvas
12 x 16 in / 30.5 x 41 cm
Catalogue No. 45



Golden Glow
Oil on canvas
24 x 20 in / 61 x 51 cm
Catalogue No. 24



Brood
Oil on canvas
12 x 20 in / 30.5 x 51 cm
Catalogue No. 36



Boat Envy
Oil on canvas
24 x 30 in / 61 x 76 cm
Catalogue No. 15



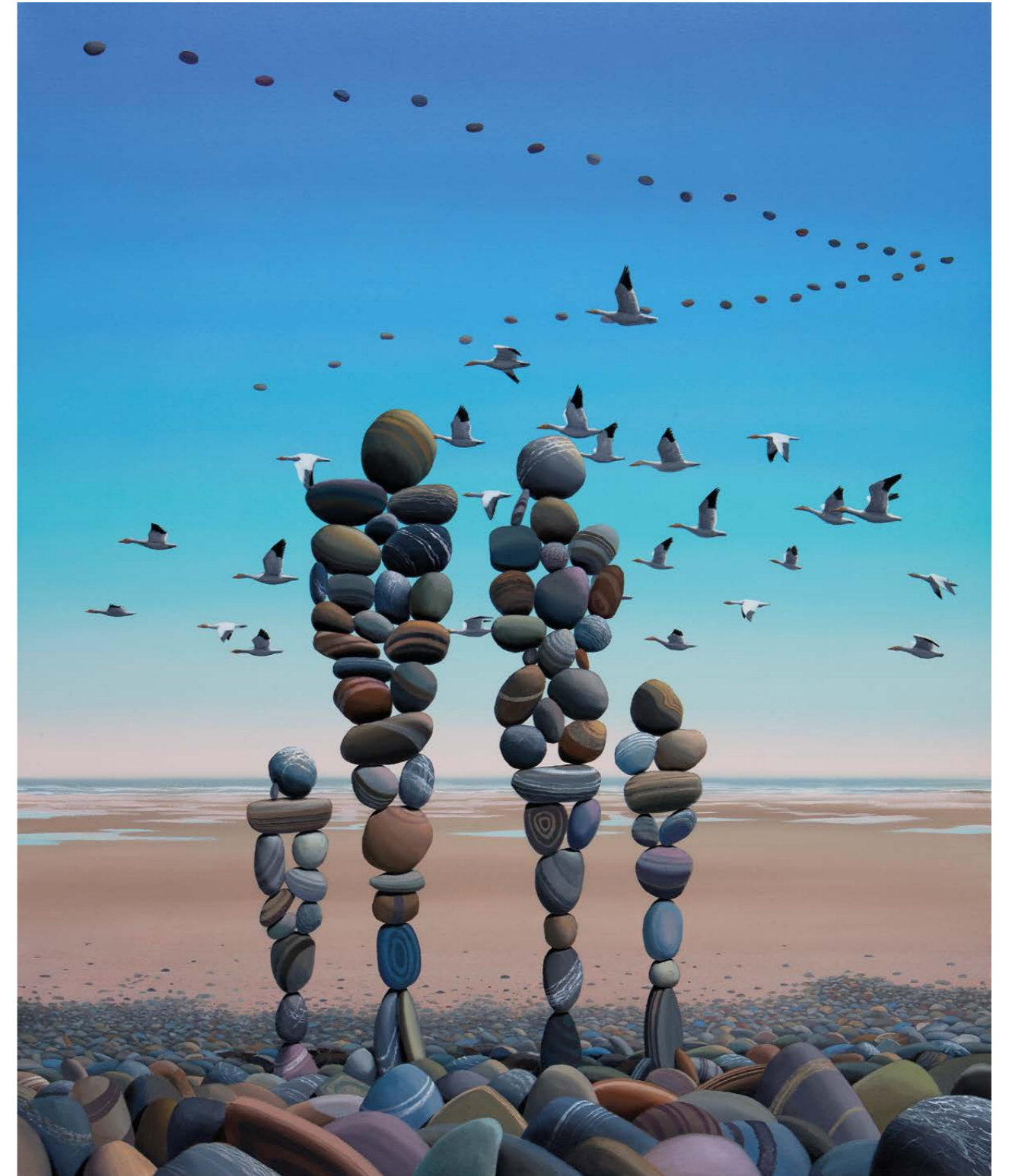
Nutjob
Oil on canvas
12 x 10 in / 30.5 x 25.5 cm
Catalogue No. 48



Finishing Touch
Oil on canvas
20 x 24 in / 51 x 61 cm
Catalogue No. 20



Clydeside Sleepers
Oil on canvas
36 x 24 in / 91.5 x 61 cm
Catalogue No. 11



Confused Dot Com
Oil on canvas
36 x 30 in / 91.5 x 76 cm
Catalogue No. 6

Gordon Mitchell RSA RSW RGI (b.1952)

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

1995 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
1996-06 Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh
1997 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
1999 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
2001 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
2002-06 Ablemarle Gallery, London
2003 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
2005 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
2007 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
2008 Portland Gallery, London
2010 Portland Gallery, London
2012 Portland Gallery, London
2013 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
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2016 Portland Gallery, London
2017 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
2018 Portland Gallery, London
2019 Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow
2020 Portland Gallery, London
2022 Portland Gallery, London
Roger Bilcliffe, Glasgow
2023 The Morningside Gallery, Edinburgh

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Alliance & Leicester Building Society, Edinburgh
Arthur Andersen
Diageo plc
Distillers Co. plc
Edinburgh College of Art
Francos Restaurant, London
Kansas City Art Institute
Macfarlane Group plc
National Westminster Bank
Paisley Art Institute
Pears Soap
Royal Bank of Scotland
Scottish Arts Council
Scottish Brewers Ltd
The Knesset, Israel
University of Edinburgh
Welcome Inns
Whyte & Mackay Group
William Teacher & Sons

AWARDS

RSA - Student Prize
EIS Purchase Prize
City Arts Centre Open Scottish Competition
RSW - Sir William Gillies Award
SAAC - Dunfermline Building Society Award
Scottish Provident Award
Whyte & MacKay Award; RGI - Scottish Amicable Prize
Royal Bank of Scotland Award
RSA - John Murray Thompson Award
RSA - Maude Gemmel Hutchison Prize
Glasgow Mayfest - Paper Boat Award



All Systems Go

Oil on canvas
16 x 12 in / 41 x 30.5 cm
Catalogue No. 40

PORTLAND GALLERY

