

FRANCES MACDONALD

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Press Release

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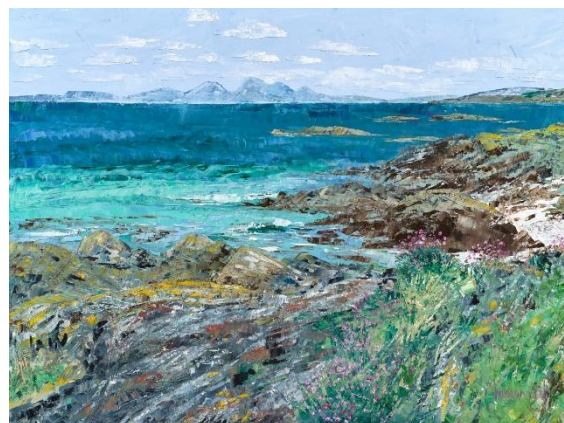
0207 493 1888

Portland Gallery is delighted to announce an exhibition of recent paintings by Frances Macdonald taking place in December 2025. The show, which contains over 50 new works, marks twenty-five years since Macdonald first began exhibiting at Portland Gallery.



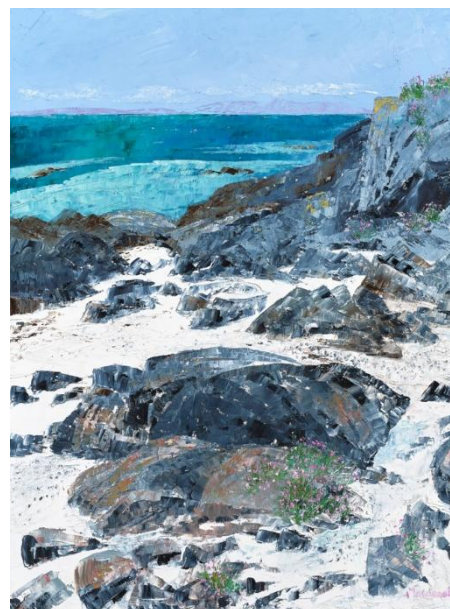
A Glimpse of Ben Mhor from the Machair, Iona
Oil on canvas, 56 x 60 in / 142 x 152.5 cm

Over that time, Macdonald has always remained true to her style, unswayed by fleeting fashions of the art world. Her paintings are as timeless as the landscape that surrounds her home, Crinan. For those collectors who have visited the family-run hotel over the last 56 years since the Ryans owned it, Macdonald's paintings offer a way to return. Macdonald's work has a clear dialogue with the tradition of the Scottish Colourists – artists such as Cadell, Peploe, and Maclachlan Milne. Yet her paintings are unmistakably her own: tactile, elemental, and grounded in the lived in experience of the landscape rather than its picturesque surface. Macdonald sculpts paint into form, translating wind, tide, and rock into tangible texture.



Sea Pinks and Emerald Shallows, Ronachan
Oil on canvas, 24 x 32 in / 61 x 81.5 cm

The impasto surfaces of her canvases are as physical as the terrain they describe. While Scotland remains her enduring muse, this exhibition hints at a spirit of exploration – from the birds of the Galápagos to scenes glimpsed in France. Wherever she travels, her trusted palette knife and painter's eye goes with her. To mark twenty-five years of collaboration is to celebrate continuity, integrity, and an artist whose commitment to her vision has never wavered. Frances Macdonald's landscapes remind us that, even in the most familiar of views, there is always something new to see.



Just hiding...pinks, Ronachan Kintyre,
Oil on canvas, 32 x 24 in / 81.5 x 61 cm

PORTLAND GALLERY

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Artist Biography

Frances Macdonald – born in Glasgow in 1945 Frances has exhibited with Portland Gallery for 25 years and her works continue to grow in popularity. From her studio overlooking the Corryvreckan, Macdonald has a clear view across the Sound of Jura to the north end of the island; to Scarba, the mountains of Mull before the great expanse of the North Atlantic. Having lived at Crinan for over 40 years Macdonald's painting is based on her intimate understanding of the landscape around her. Her knowledge of sailing informs her of approaching weather patterns, and she captures fleeting Hebridean sunshine alongside the winter squalls with equal immediacy. Peploe and Cadell's paintings of Iona cast a long shadow in Scottish art history, yet Macdonald has established herself as a worthy heir to the tradition started at the end of the 19th century.

Macdonald has served as a member of the Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour and The Royal Glasgow Institute of The Fine Arts. In 2013 Frances was awarded the Charles Rennie Mackintosh residency at Collioure. Macdonald's paintings are featured in private collections worldwide.

- High resolution images are available on request
- Advanced viewings of artworks can be arranged on request
- The artist is available for interview
- A fully illustrated catalogue supports the exhibition

About Portland Gallery

Portland Gallery was established in 1984 and are leading dealers in modern and contemporary British Art. Located in St James's, the gallery is spread over two floors and plays host to 14 exhibitions a year, principally solo presentations of represented artists and estate. The gallery is operated as an Employee Ownership Trust.