

LACHLAN GOUDIE: BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY

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Press Release

For more information please contact:

Florence Batchelor

florence@portlandgallery.com

0207 493 1888

Portland Gallery is pleased to announce our second solo exhibition of Lachlan Goudie's paintings. This body of works focuses on scenes of London: dramatic skyscraper panoramas; the Thames by twilight; and vibrant street scenes. There is also a selection of still lifes created in Goudie's studio that are packed with opulent items and conveyed in rich tones.



Bright Lights, Big City
Acrylic on board, 100 x 134 cm

In all the decades that I have lived in London I have never lost the thrill of feeling like a stranger here. I experience a surge of excitement every time I walk beneath the lights of Piccadilly circus, whenever I cross the Thames on Waterloo Bridge or take in the view from a skyscraper in the City. London is a blast and it's this feeling of energy, colour and daily drama that I have tried to express in these paintings.

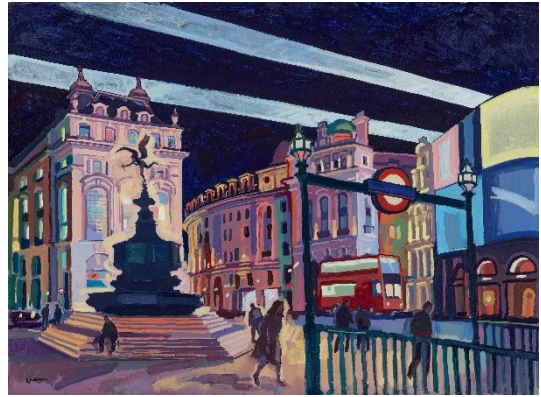
London is a sprawling confusion; a mismatch of building genres and higgledy-piggledy perspectives. It can be hard to find a clear path through all the visual noise. Perhaps that's why I often like to paint London by night. That's when the stark contrast of light and dark, neon and deep shadow help to simplify the contours of the buildings and throw the city's drama into sharp relief. And this sense of London as a dramatic stage set, a backdrop against which human stories are played out every day, is key to the way I select, compose and frame my subjects.

PORTLAND GALLERY

3 BENNET STREET • LONDON SW1A 1RP

TELEPHONE 020 7493 1888 • EMAIL art@portlandgallery.com

www.portlandgallery.com



West End
Acrylic on board, 76 x 102 cm

Many of the works in this exhibition were painted at street level, whilst immersed in the hurly burley of a city on-the-go. But for a little calm, I often retreat to the studio at my home in West London. The building where I live and work is enormously important to the way that I experience this city. In several of my paintings it is represented as a home full of paintings and much-loved treasures, a place of refuge for me and family. But it also serves another purpose, illustrated in depictions of my cluttered studio interior.

This workshop is my haven. It's the room where I often concentrate for long hours refining images that have been created 'en plein air', or developing larger compositions inspired by these sketches. And it's here too that I find the time to indulge my love of painting still lifes. This simple challenge, the depiction of cut flowers and crystal, silk and porcelain, is one that I return to annually. But this year, perhaps more than most, the process has offered me a little respite from the exertions of painting London; a welcome opportunity to still the noise and reduce the bright lights of the big city to nothing more than a sparkle on silverware.



Something to Celebrate
Oil on board, 87 x 96 cm

Artist Biography

Lachlan Goudie (b.) is an artist whose work is regularly exhibited in London, Edinburgh and New York. The scope of Lachlan's work is broad, incorporating portraiture, still life and landscape painting. His canvasses have won numerous awards, and he is an elected a member of the Royal Institute of Oil painters.

In addition to painting, Lachlan is also a writer and Arts broadcaster. In 2015 Lachlan wrote and presented the landmark BBC TV series 'The Story of Scottish Art'. He has presented numerous other arts documentaries for the BBC, appeared as a judge across four series of BBC1's 'Big Painting Challenge' and 'Celebrity Big Painting Challenge', and was the presenter of BBC4's 'Life Drawing Live!' (2020, 2021). Lachlan has been nominated for awards at BAFTA and the Royal Television Society Scotland.

Lachlan's first book, 'The Story of Scottish Art', was published by Thames & Hudson to critical acclaim in September 2020. His new book 'The Secrets of Painting', which charts how the evolution of painting materials has changed the course of human creativity, was published in April 2026.

Lachlan's writing is informed by his experience of working as an artist. He is a keen proselytiser for the value of technique and craft in contemporary art and was schooled in painting by his father, the artist Alexander Goudie. The wonder of art: its power to colour and change people's lives fascinates Lachlan. It lies at the heart of his work as a painter, writer and broadcaster.

Lachlan was born and grew up in Glasgow, Scotland, before studying English at Christ's College, Cambridge and Fine Art at Camberwell College of Art in London. He lives in London.

Publications

2026	The Secrets of Painting , Thames & Hudson
2020	The Story of Scottish Art , Thames & Hudson

Selected Broadcasting

2020, 2021	BBC TV ' Life Drawing Live! '
2018	BBC TV ' Painting the Holy Land ' BBC TV ' Mackintosh: Glasgow's Neglected Genius '
2017	BBC TV ' Awesome Beauty: The Art of Industrial Britain '
2015-2019	BBC TV ' Big Painting Challenge ' and ' Celebrity Big Painting '
2015	BBC TV ' The Story of Scottish Art '.

- 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.