

PRESS RELEASE

PORTLAND GALLERY ANNOUNCE EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY PAUL RAFFERTY

Paul Rafferty: Under the Sun

16 – 31st March 2023

Portland Gallery is delighted to announce an exhibition of Paul Rafferty's latest works this coming March. Featuring over fifty paintings of interiors, architecture and idyllic French beaches, our show highlights the artist's talent for painting en plein air and capturing the immediacy of a place or moment; his self-taught style focuses on the natural light that the French sun has to offer. The exhibition celebrates the romantic and glamorous lifestyle that accompanies the French Riviera. Highlights include iconic locations and hot spots such as *The Hotel Negresco*, which has hosted celebrities and artists alike, *Colombe d'Or* and *Club 55*. Also included in the exhibition are a selection of opulent still life scenes featuring Pol Roger champagne, an Hermès scarf, hydrangeas in full bloom and striking freesias, all painted intimately from Rafferty's studio.

"The journey of a painter is a long and winding road, never completely satisfied...My motivation and focus have not changed, it is all about the light" – Paul Rafferty

Paul Rafferty: Under the Sun opens at Portland Gallery from the 16th March until 31st March. The gallery is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm, or by appointment.

For more information please contact:

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Portland Gallery

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About Portland Gallery:

Portland Gallery was established in 1984 and are leading dealers in modern and contemporary British Art. Located in Bennet Street, the gallery is spread over two floors and plays host to 14 exhibitions a year, principally solo presentations of represented artists and estates. The gallery is owned by an Employee Ownership Trust.

Artist Biography:

Paul Rafferty (b. 1965)

Paul Rafferty was born in 1965 in Oxford, England. Rafferty paints primarily in oil on location and uses his studio in Mougins for the completion of larger works. His subjects are taken from his environment, whether the South of France, California or London. The common theme which runs throughout his work is his concentration on differing light effects, whether across a sun-soaked landscape, the dappled shadows in a restaurant or the play of reflections in intricate still lifes.

Rafferty is a great admirer of the work of Edward Seago and his encyclopaedic knowledge of the artist is unparalleled. Rafferty's own work possesses the same quality of observation and the ability to capture atmosphere. His passion for the artist and understanding of his history, accompanied by great enthusiasm for the subject, translates in his various writings i.e. a recent written text for Portland Gallery's own exhibition *Edward Seago: Sketchbook (24th November – 22nd December)*.

In 2020 Rafferty's book *Winston Churchill: Painting on the French Riviera* was published by Unicorn with a foreword from King Charles. In over 200 pages Rafferty pinpoints vistas that appear in Churchill's paintings as well as discussing his painting practice. His publication documents Churchill's love affair with the Cote d'Azur, which in turn has rubbed off on Rafferty who too is inspired by the coastal beauty of France. At time of writing Rafferty is embarking upon a life-sized statue of Churchill in the act of painting which will be unveiled in the Port of St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat in June 2023.

Rafferty has exhibited extensively across the USA and London. This is his seventh exhibition with Portland Gallery.