

ELAINE PAMPHILON AND CHRISTOPHER MARVELL

Paintings and Sculpture

28th September – 13th October 2023

Press Release

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Portland Gallery is proud to present a joint exhibition of paintings by Elaine Pamphilon and sculptures by Christopher Marvell. Currently based in Cambridge, the artistic duo have been living and working together for forty years. Although their output is individual there is an intellectual dialogue that informs one another's work and is why they present so well alongside each other.



Ben Nicholson's House, St Ives by Elaine Pamphilon, mixed media on canvas

Elaine's paintings explore form and colour whilst exploring a range subject matter, from the turquoise seas of Cornwall to carefully curated still life's of objects found at home. Evident in paintings ***Ben Nicholson's House, St Ives*** and the Kettle's yard works, Elaine takes inspiration from art historical references such as Mary Fedden, Eric Ravilious and Alfred Wallis as well as applying equal weight to objects belonging to friends – ***Margaretha's Goose Egg*** for example. Works on canvas, linen and wooden panel demonstrate simple domestic pleasures, with a particular affinity for British ceramics and design.

Throughout, Pamphilon emphasizes the importance of colour and how she is *"always being fascinated by the fact that the very colour one starts with, may be wrong further on in the composition"*.



Black Dog and Lying Dog by Christopher Marvell, bronze

She uses colour combinations that are in close proximity to each other, like in *Chest at the Captain's House*, *St Ives* and *Ferns in Yellow Mugs* to demonstrate subtleties in a range of tones.

Christopher's sculptures, like Elaine's paintings, are personal and focus on the joy of nature and the everyday. The deliberately naïve style plays with both traditions of folk art and mid-century simplicity. From birds in mid-flight to figures standing tall, Christopher's works explore textures, shapes and colours in every piece: *"it needs to be my marks on [the sculptures]"* hence his consistent hands-on approach throughout all processes of bronze production.

Works such as ***Seabird*** and ***Blue Man's Head*** demonstrate different applications of patination, all of which evolve over time. They are designed to survive in outside conditions and the naturally occurring colours allow the works to seemingly blend into natural landscapes. Marvell's daily walks through the surrounding Cambridgeshire countryside informs his way of making with each sculpture having an English-based quality of man and nature coexisting.

PORTLAND GALLERY

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Artist Biography

Elaine Pamphilon (b. 1948) and Christopher Marvell (b.1964)

Inspired by many visits to Jim Ede at Kettle's Yard, encouraged by his personal art collection and the stories that went along with them, Christopher and Elaine bought a house in St. Ives where they lived and created for twenty-five years. It was in the picturesque Cornish town that they gained so much influence and knowledge meeting artists such as Alan Davie, Sandra Blow and Wilhelmina Barnes Graham. The artist pair have settled in Cambridgeshire, each with their own studios that overlook a beautifully curated garden. Although cementing their own artist practices, the pair offer advice and critical opinions to influence one another: *"We trust each other to say exactly what we think and know that advice will be honest and valuable"*.

- 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 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.

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