

MODERN BRITISH ART: THE LIE OF THE LAND

18 October – 3 November 2023

Press Release

For more information, please contact: Esme Dollow
esme@portlandgallery.com /020 7493 1888

Portland Gallery is excited to present *The Lie of The Land*, an exhibition representing British landscape art across the twentieth and twenty-first century. From rural countryside to industrial cityscapes, these settings have long been recognised as a magnet for artists, enticing them to return time and again.



C.R.W. Nevinson, *Cloud Shadows of Spring*, c.1925-26, oil on canvas

These boundless interpretations reflect the artists' developing relationship to a place. It is rare to find an artwork created solely for the view itself; mere depictions transcend to something far more significant. Christopher Neve remarks, '*The land is the foundation on which everything stands; the grounds of all action and all feeling.*'* The land becomes a catalyst: a means to convey the emotional connection as something tangible. At a time when war and industrialisation radically transformed the landscape, scenes infused with melancholy, nostalgia and wonder sought to represent British identity and history as it changed.

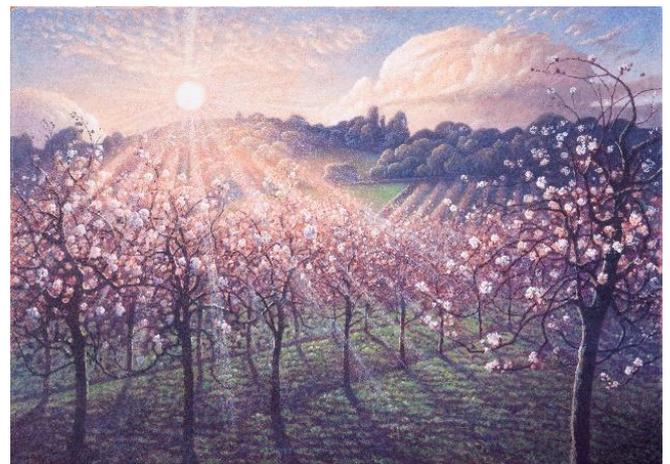
The Lie of the Land presents a diverse selection of mid-century British artists. Each work invites us into the artists' world as they see it: drawn in by familiarity, reverence and mystery to reveal their passion for the settings before them. **C.R.W. Nevinson's** *Cloud Shadows of Spring*, c.1925-26 is a highlight, in which he depicts the quiet beauty of the English countryside with a striking modern perspective and light. The dramatic rolling hills reflect a place of true solace, untouched by conflict. By contrast, **Prunella Clough's** *Deserted Gravel Pit*, c.1946 explores the relationship between landscape and industry, deliberately provoking a discussion about our place in nature.



Dennis Creffield, *Petworth Park, Early Spring*, 1992, oil on canvas

Works by **Paul Feiler**, **Peter Lanyon**, **Ivon Hitchens** and **Dennis Creffield** are also included, representing the landscape in a more abstracted manner. Layering together fluid shape with bold colour they intertwine space, movement and form, to celebrate and evoke the physical energy and drama experienced from immersing themselves in the landscape. In doing so, they reveal the *genius loci*: the spirit of place, uncovering the power and fragility of the land to the viewer.

We are also delighted to include paintings by contemporary artist, **James Lynch**. Based in Somerset, Lynch's fascination for the English countryside follows a similar vein. Inspiration from walking and paragliding across the landscape allows him to examine both land and sky with spectacular perspective, capturing its beauty and drama with a delicacy from the medium of egg tempera.



James Lynch, *The Orchard, Under Wood*, 2023, egg tempera on board

*C. Neve, *Unquiet Landscape*, London, 2022, p.12.

PORTLAND GALLERY

3 BENNET STREET • LONDON SW1A 1RP

TELEPHONE 020 7493 1888 • EMAIL art@portlandgallery.com

www.portlandgallery.com

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. Portland Gallery participates at leading London art fairs. The gallery is owned by an Employee Ownership Trust.

- High resolution images of works in the exhibition are available on request
- Advanced viewings of artworks can be arranged on request
- A small promotional brochure supports the exhibition

PORTLAND GALLERY

3 BENNET STREET • LONDON SW1A 1RP

TELEPHONE 020 7493 1888 • EMAIL art@portlandgallery.com

www.portlandgallery.com