

MARTYN BREWSTER: TO THE SEA

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Press Release

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We are delighted to present *To The Sea* by Martyn Brewster. In his second solo show at Portland Gallery, we highlight the artist's talent for capturing the Dorset coastline and reproducing seascapes in an abstract style with vibrant and often exaggerated colours. These thirty works span over two decades of Brewster's illustrious career, ranging from the early 2000's up until the present day; a comparative look at Brewster's ongoing affinity for the Dorset coast near his home and studio.



Ocean Light (2016)
oil on canvas, 180 x 150 cm

From the jewel-toned reflections in *Ocean Light* (2016) and *Seascape No.43* (2015), to opulent sunsets in *Turquoise Sky* (2023), this body of paintings captures Brewster's ability to take an earthy and muted English seascape and reimagine his surroundings as richly coloured, with endless possibilities for colour and light experimentation. His emotive response to land and seascapes transforms his subject matter into bold lyrical paintings.



Turquoise Sky (2023)
acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 cm

"The endless shapes and compositional possibilities, the wonderful colours, the ever-changing weather, the shadows and light all play their part." - Martyn Brewster

Each work is not purely abstract but instead are abstractions from nature. Paintings such as *Along the Coast No.4* (2022) have abstracted elements but are still representative of the coastline - the curvature of cliff edges to the ripples and waves of the sea. Brewster captures the essence of a familiar yet ever changing shoreline. His passion for the coast, the cliffs and the sea is a constant and powerful theme throughout his painting practice, and particularly in the works chosen for this exhibition.



Along the Coast No.4 (2022)
acrylic on canvas, 150 x 135 cm

Artist Biography

Martyn Brewster (b.1952)

Brewster received his undergraduate degree from Brighton Polytechnic where he studied under Dennis Creffield. His very early work was informed by his tuition and was both expressionistic and figurative, although his interest in abstract art was very apparent by the mid-1970s. After taking a post-graduate degree in print making, Brewster began exhibiting regularly in London and further afield. His early influences included the Abstract Expressionists but also abstract art from mainland Europe, particularly artists such as Nicolas de Staël and Serge Poliakoff. He retains a particular admiration for John Hoyland's work and that of the St Ives School.

Brewster has had retrospective exhibitions at the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, 1997; the Royal West of England Academy, 2001; and the Study Gallery of Modern Art, Poole, 2003, amongst others. He has won numerous awards and has work in private, public and corporate collections worldwide. Public collections include the Victoria & Albert Museum, British Museum, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Arts Institute at Bournemouth and Bournemouth University.

"My primary concern has always been with painting. I have never ceased to be fascinated and enthralled by the tactile and evocative qualities of paint, oil paint especially. Early on, I developed a particular interest in colour and abstraction which is the key to my work, coupled with a lyrical and poetic response to both nature and the medium."

Through the application of paint to the canvas Brewster wants the atmosphere and subtleties of the countryside and nature to be absorbed into his work. He uses oil on canvas or he paints using acrylics and collage which adds a wonderful textural element to the artwork.

- High resolution images are available on request
- Advanced viewings of artworks can be arranged on request
- The artist is available for interview
- An illustrated catalogue will support 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 fourteen exhibitions a year, principally solo presentations of represented artists and estate. The gallery is operated as an Employee Ownership Trust.

PORTLAND GALLERY

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