**PRESS RELEASE**

**PORTLAND GALLERY ANOUNCE EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY MARY FEDDEN**

*Mary Fedden: The Painter’s Eye*

10th November – 2nd December 2022

Portland Gallery is delighted to announce an important exhibition of works by Mary Fedden taking place in November. The exhibition features almost fifty paintings, drawings and collages that span the artist’s entire career. Beginning with Fedden’s early landscape, figure and still life painting, our show highlights the artist’s new, individual style of studio painting using bold colour and playful composition. The exhibition presents a wide array of Fedden’s celebrated and charming still lifes, dreamlike landscapes and figurative painting which have cemented her reputation as one of Britain’s most enduringly popular artists of the 20th and 21st Century. Highlights include the dynamic 1974 interior, *The Etching Table*, where the influence from St Ives artists Ben Nicholson and Christopher Wood can be felt, and *Goat’s (Lanzarote),* 1987, an exceptional large-scale oil demonstrating Fedden’s additional stimulus from travels with her husband and fellow artist Julian Trevelyan, who lived and worked together with Fedden at their Hammersmith studios from 1951.

Jamie Anderson, director of Portland Gallery: *‘Pulling together the paintings and works on paper which constitute this exhibition was a real voyage of discovery, despite being so familiar with her work. Engaging with collectors has given fresh insight into her working practice and her character. What has been fascinating is how collecting Mary’s work seems too hereditary, with each new generation finding fresh pleasure in viewing and owning her paintings.’*

*Mary Fedden: The Painter’s Eye* opens at Portland Gallery from the 10th November until 2nd December. The gallery is open Monday – Friday, 10am – 6pm, or by appointment.

For more information please contact:

**Jamie Anderson or Esme Dollow**

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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. Portland Gallery participates at Leading London at fairs including Masterpiece and the British Art Fair. The gallery is owned by an Employee Ownership Trust.

**Artist Biography:**

Mary Fedden, OBE, RA, RWA (1915 – 2012)

Mary Fedden left school to study at the Slade School of Art at the age of sixteen. After leaving the college she made a living teaching, painting portraits and producing stage designs for Sadlers Wells and the Arts Theatre.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Fedden served in the Land Army and the Woman’ s Voluntary Service and was commissioned to produce murals for the war effort. In 1944 she was sent abroad as a driver for the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes. After the war, Fedden returned to easel painting and developed her individual style of still life painting. In an article in ‘The Artist’ magazine, she wrote: ‘I really float from influence to influence. I found the early Ben Nicholson’ s fascinating as were the paintings of his wife Winifred. I also admire the Scottish artist Anne Redpath and the French painter Henri Hayden.’

In 1951, Fedden married the artist Julian Trevelyan who she had met before the war. Together, Trevelyan and Fedden travelled widely and even collaborated on a mural commission for Charing Cross Hospital. Fedden received several other commissions for murals, including the Festival of Britain (1951), the P & O Liner, Canberra (1961) as well as from schools and hospitals.

From 1958 until 1964 she taught at the Royal College of Art and was appointed the first female tutor in the Painting School. Her pupils included David Hockney and Allen Jones. Subsequently, Fedden taught at the Yehudi Menuhin School and was elected Royal Academician. From 1984 to 1988 she was President of the Royal West of England Academy. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Bath and an O.B.E. for her work.

In 2008 Portland Gallery held a retrospective exhibition of Fedden’s work, with 125 paintings spanning six decades.

In 2009, Fedden was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Durham.

In 2009 Portland Gallery was appointed to represent Mary Fedden. Portland Gallery exclusively represents the Estate of Mary Fedden.