

Ken Howard OBE, RA (1932-2022)

Drawn From Life

30 January – 14 February 2025



Sennen evening, Oil on canvas, 24 x 35 7/8 in

PRESS RELEASE

Portland Gallery is delighted to present a new exhibition of works by the late Ken Howard OBE, RA. Following his recent passing, we are pleased to continue our strong representation of Ken's artwork and relationship with his estate, as we bring together a collection of over forty paintings at the gallery.

Drawn From Life presents the artist's passion for *en plein air* painting in both oil and watercolour. Howard habitually painted amongst busy city streets and coastlines, which allowed him to capture the atmosphere of a place with a natural spontaneity. Visits across Italy,

France and the UK will be shown, including a number of Cornish cove scenes such as *Sennen evening* and *St Michael's Mount, Morning*. Harbours and shipyards, another favoured setting, will also be featured. *Arbroath, Scotland*, painted in 1957 (while still a student at the RCA) highlights the early fascination Ken held with these maritime and industrial subjects, a theme which continued throughout his prolific career.

Light was also a crucial element of painting for Howard. Inspired by the Impressionists, his celebrated *contre-jour* technique can be found throughout his landscape and figurative works: where his observations of the bright morning light and contrasting shadows cast from the evening sun dramatically alter the perception of a setting. Elsewhere, serenely posed models are illuminated wonderfully by the sunlight behind them from within Ken's Venice, London and Mousehole studios.



The Duomo, Florence, Oil on canvas, 16 x 12 in



Studio Interior, Oil on canvas, 44 x 38 in

Ken Howard: Drawn From Life opens from 30th January 2025 until 14th February 2025. Portland Gallery represents the estate of Ken Howard. All works from the exhibition will be available to view online and purchase prior to the opening. Please contact Esme Dollow at esme@portlandgallery.com / 0207 493 1888 for further information.

- High resolution images of works in the exhibition are available on request.
- Advanced viewings of artworks can be arranged on request.
- An illustrated catalogue supports the exhibition.

PORTLAND GALLERY

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Artist Biography

Ken Howard studied at Hornsey School of Art from 1949 to 1953. He then did his National Service with the Royal Marines before returning to study at the Royal College of Art from 1955 to 1958. He went on to win a British Council Scholarship to Florence from 1958 to 1959.

Howard's first solo show was held at the Plymouth Art Centre in 1955. Subsequent exhibitions were held in 1966 and 1968 at the John Whibley Gallery. From then on he exhibited extensively, both nationally and internationally, particularly with the New Grafton Gallery from the early 1970s. He was given a retrospective in 1972 at the Plymouth City Art Gallery and in 1973 and 1979 was appointed by the Imperial War Museum as official artist in Northern Ireland. He also worked with the British Army in Germany, Cyprus, Oman, Hong Kong, Nepal, Norway, Canada, Belize and Brunei from 1973 to 1982.

Howard was elected a member of the New English Art Club in 1962, the Royal Institute of Oil Painters in 1966, the Royal Society of Painters in Watercolours in 1979, the Royal West of England Academy 1981, Honorary Member of the Royal Society of British Artists in 1988, Royal Academician in 1991 and President of the New English Art Club in 1998. Among his numerous awards are First Prize in the Lord Mayor's Art Award in 1966, a Prize Winner in the John Moores Exhibition, Liverpool in 1978, first prize in the Hunting Group Awards and the Critics Prize at Sparkasse Karlsruhe in 1985. Ken Howard lived and worked in London up until his passing in September 2022.

Portland Gallery represents the estate of Ken Howard, holding regular shows of his work since March 2018.

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.

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