

TOM WOOD: RECENT PAINTINGS

2 - 17 APRIL 2025

PRIVATE VIEW: TUESDAY 1ST APRIL, 6-8pm

PRESS RELEASE

For more information please contact:

Jasmine Winter

jasmine@portlandgallery.com

0207 493 1888

Portland Gallery is delighted to announce an exhibition of Tom Wood's latest works this coming April. Displaying fifteen mixed media paintings, our show highlights the artist's interest and connection to nature, celebrating the natural world whilst incorporating still life motifs throughout.



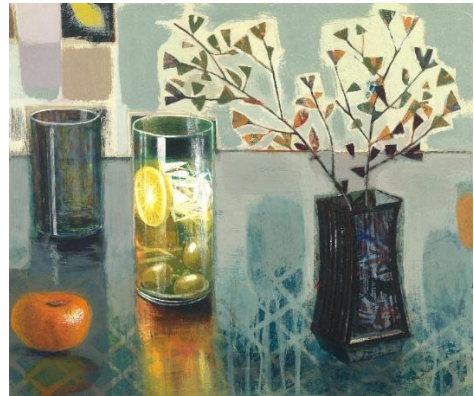
Crab (2024)

Acrylic and collage on panel, 61 x 61cm

Beginning with outlines of ceramics, fauna and flora using homemade dip pens, Tom Wood paints dynamic patterns and shapes across the background. Often revising and reworking the paintings, Wood will remove or add elements with gusto, either in the early stages of creating or even months after their completion:

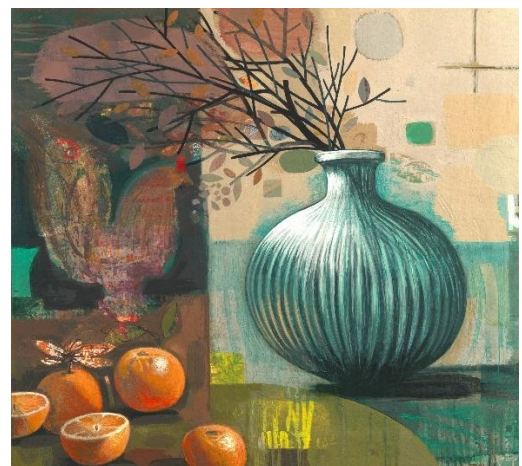
“In one way I love those early stages where there is a freshness and aggressive boldness, a painting that might become anything, but and it's a big but, can also dissolve into a vapid

suggestion of what might be but isn't. I'm never really happy unless there is a kind of compositional clarity, a formal resolution so all the parts sit together and equally support one another. Without that, for me, the painting is unfinished.” - Tom Wood



Satsuma, Gingko and Gin (2024 - 2025)
Acrylic and collage on panel, 52 x 61cm

There is an ethereal quality to his work as mysterious abstract shapes, objects or animals 'float' in the background, challenging typical expectations of a still life painting. The ghosts of early compositions can be found under layers of paint, emphasising Tom's philosophy of 'fettling'; a local Yorkshire term meaning to loosely fiddle with something after it is supposed to be finished. Tom Wood says he is addicted to this 'fettling' hence why familiar works can feel entirely new to the viewer.



Four Oranges, A Still Life (2024)
Acrylic and collage on panel, 73 x 80 cm

Artist Biography

Marrying together abstraction and figuration, Tom Wood is known for his imaginative works on canvas and paper. He paints portraits, landscapes and objects in layers with unique compositions. He amalgamates subject matter to execute his artistic style.

Tom Wood was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika in 1955. In 1959 he moved to West Yorkshire. As an artist he has been closely involved in the creation of The West Yorkshire Print Workshop also Yorkshire Printmakers in Leeds. He was one of the first artists to have a studio in the Dean Clough Mill Complex, Halifax and created a large studio and gallery at Phoebe Mills, Halifax, He was then employed by English Schools Foundation, Hong Kong as Senior Art Advisor. Upon returning to the UK he created the Art Academy at Redbrick Mill, Batley where he has a studio and continues to teach.

A prolific exhibitor in group, two-man and solo shows, which included a one-man show at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford 1986, one-man exhibition at Dean Clough Contemporary Art Gallery, Halifax 1987, a one-man show: 'HRH The Prince of Wales: A Portrait Commission', at Dean Clough and Agnew 1989, and a solo exhibition at Wakefield Art Gallery 1990.

Wood's work is held by the Yale Centre for British Art, New Haven, HRH The Prince of Wales, The National Portrait Gallery Collection, The National Trust, London Transport Collection, The Hepworth Wakefield and numerous provincial galleries.

- 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.