

MICHAEL TAYLOR: STILL LIFE

5 – 20 JUNE 2025

PRESS RELEASE

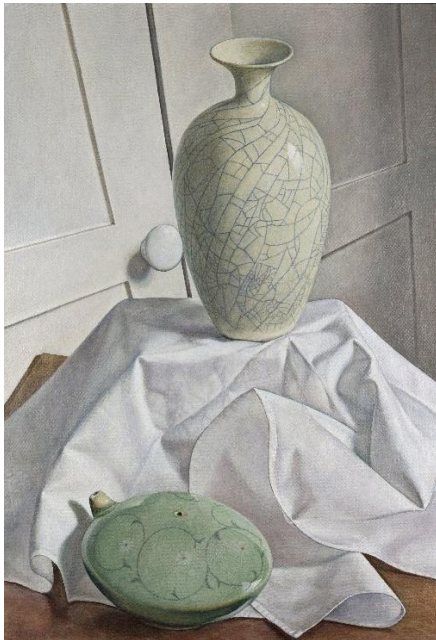
For more information please contact:

Jasmine Winter

jasmine@portlandgallery.com

0207 493 1888

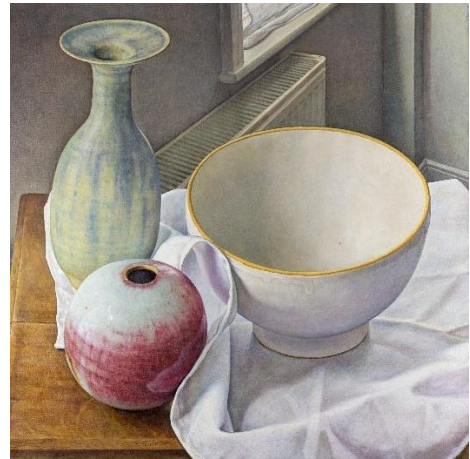
Portland Gallery proudly presents a series of intimately painted and quietly observed oils by Michael Taylor. In his first presentation with the gallery, we invite the viewer to study and observe the intricate details within waffled table linens, fine wood grains and smooth ceramic glazes.



White Vase

Oil on canvas, 81 x 56 cm

Laboriously painted, Taylor 'crawls' over the surface of objects to replicate the finer details of his chosen textures; beginning with several dynamic pencil drawings he then paints his compositions, spending three to four months on one canvas at a time. In capturing the fine cracking of enamel in *White Vase* or the faint reflections of glazes in *Empty Bowl*, Taylor's still life's appear minimalist from afar but up close, are deeply contemplative and complex.



Empty Bowl

Oil on canvas, 76 x 76 cm

Michael Taylor immortalises objects and subjects that he is fully acquainted with, from ceramics loaned from neighbours or flints found in Dorset's quarries to gifts from family in South Korea. Over time, the water jugs and vases develop human-like characteristics as the subjects engage with one another, with the light and the familiar background of the artist's studio. Each carefully selected piece has its own story and although may appear mundane in their ordinary context, are transformed into opulent 'sitters' of his paintings:



Korean Pots with Flints

Oil on canvas, 61 x 82 cm

"To spend weeks, sometimes months, in solitary communion with one or two seemingly insignificant, often neglected objects, treating their depiction with great care and respect strikes me as an entirely fitting way to spend my remaining years" – Michael Taylor, 2024

Artist Biography

Michael Taylor is a contemporary artist who paints figurative and still life works pouring with precise care and detail.

Working on a singular canvas at a time, Taylor spends roughly three months on his complex compositions, transforming everyday objects into lyrical and often poetic paintings.

Born in Sussex in 1952, Taylor attended the Worthing College of Art (1969 - 1970) before graduating from Goldsmiths School of art in 1973. Post-university, Michael Taylor devoted his time to working on a single canvas at a time. Throughout his career Taylor has received a number of Portrait awards and has exhibited across London and Dorset.

- 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.