

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

20th & 21st CENTURY ART

PORTLAND GALLERY 22 JULY - 15 AUGUST 2025

Press Release

For more information please contact:

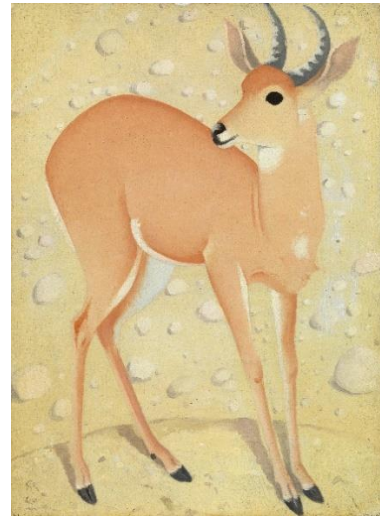
art@portlandgallery.com

0207 493 1888

Portland Gallery is pleased to present *All Creatures Great and Small*: a diverse exhibition which places animals at its core.

The animal kingdom has been portrayed in artwork for centuries. From working roles in agriculture and industry, to the domestication of exotic animals as pets, these depictions show the early development and importance of animals' value within society and culture.

Spanning the 20th and 21st Century, our presentation continues to explore this subject as an enduring inspiration across painting, collage, sculpture and printed media. Paintings by Romy Elliott and contemporary sculptor Jess Wallace highlight the deep emotional connections that humans have with these animals, inviting the audience to reflect upon the reliance and companionship between creature and man.



Simon Bussy, *Antelope*, 1940, oil on canvas, 12 ¾ x 9 ¼ in.

Additional exhibiting artists include: David Spiller, Mary Fedden, Nick Botting, James Lynch, Elaine Pamphillon, Christopher Marvell, PJ Crook and Nicholas Hely Hutchinson.

- High resolution images are available on request
- Advanced viewings of artworks can be arranged on request
- Selected artists are available for interview
- An illustrated brochure supports the exhibition
- Open afternoon viewing: Tuesday 22 July (3-7pm) RSVP: art@portlandgallery.com

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.



Romy Elliott, *Eleanor's Dog*, 2024, acrylic on canvas, 15 ¾ x 19 ¾ in.

Whether through Peter Clark's witty collage interpretations, delicate oil and pastel works by Simon Bussy, or the refined naturalistic studies by Edward Seago, each artist also celebrates the animal in its entirety; capturing unique personalities and characteristics with their chosen media.

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Exhibiting Artists

Edward Bawden CBE, RA (1903-1989)

Master printmaker, illustrator and designer, Edward Bawden is best known for his graphic linocuts, murals and designs for traditional British companies such as Fortnum & Mason, Twinings and London Transport. Bawden studied at the Royal College of Art (where he later taught), tutored by British Surrealist painter Paul Nash and closely associated with Eric Ravilious, Douglas Bliss and Enid Marx. During World War II Bawden served as an official war artist, producing works in Belgium, France and Greece.

Nick Botting (B.1963)

Nick Botting has an instinctive ability to capture in paint the atmosphere of his subject: from the bars and theatres of London to the beaches of Norfolk. Direct experience and careful observation are important themes throughout his work. He makes a point of painting directly from the subject rather than depending on references, for this establishes a spontaneity and sense of genuine experience that is often lost in the studio.

Simon Bussy (1870-1954)

French-born Bussy trained at the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris, where he became close friends with Henri Matisse. He travelled to London in 1901, where he exhibited works and met Dorothy Stachey, Duncan Grant's cousin. In 1903 the pair married and moved to Le Souco, where they regularly accommodated Grant and members of the Bloomsbury group. Best known for delicate paintings and drawings of animals, Bussy used bold colour and minimal line to capture the characters of his subjects, based mostly on sketches from his trips to London zoo.

Peter Clark (B.1944)

From animals created from maps, labels and discarded tickets, to garments carefully crafted from gift wrapping, musical scores and love letters, Peter Clark has the rare ability to turn ordinary printed matter into exquisite works of art with character, beauty and wit. Whether it's at a car boot sale in Chiswick, an antiques fair in Sussex, or further afield to flea markets in France, USA, Japan and India, he travels far and wide to source materials for his next pieces.

Robert Clatworthy, RA (1928-2015)

Born in Somerset, Clatworthy's rural upbringing inspired his animal subject matter. He moved to London, studying at Chelsea School of Art under Bernard Meadows, and became close friends with Elisabeth Frink. In the 1950's Clatworthy was selected to become Henry Moore's assistant, where he developed his practice and was persuaded to join the Slade School of Art. Clatworthy's ominous, semi-abstracted, bronzes of bulls, cats and figurative subjects saw the artist be informally associated with the Geometry of Fear group. During this time, critic David Sylvester wrote that Clatworthy was "...the best thing I have seen by any English sculptor younger than Henry Moore". Despite a dip in popularity over the 1970s and 80s, Clatworthy continued to undertake public London commissions and exhibit his sculpture. His works were collected by institutions including the Tate Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum and the Arts Council.

Marzia Colonna (B.1951)

Marzia Colonna was born in Pisa and studied sculpture at the Accademia di Belle Arti as well as printing at Morley College. Her mixed media collages and sculptures utilise juxtapositions of colour and form to re-create the experience of sensations. Physical and instinctive, her aim is to capture the moment, not only in the visual sense, but in a way that encompasses her feelings about the subject matter. She is a member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors.

PJ Crook, MBE (B.1945)

PJ Crook is a painter of people and society, animals and environment, mythology and current events. Her vision of the world oscillates between surreal fantasy and the ordinary day-to-day. What unites all her work is both a technical mastery and a graphic figurative style. Crook paints from her imagination and works in a variety of media - oil, acrylic, tinted gesso - and expands her scene into the surrounding frame to better capture that vision.

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William Crosbie RSA (1915-1999)

Born in Hankow, China, Crosbie grew up in Glasgow and attended the Glasgow School of Art between 1932 and 1935 where he was awarded a travel scholarship and visited Paris, studying under Modernists Ferdinand Léger and Aristide Maillol. Returning to the UK, Crosbie continued to create artwork throughout the war while serving the Merchant Navy. In 1946, he held his first exhibition in London's Lefevre Gallery alongside Surrealist painter John Armstrong and during this time grew in popularity through creating altarpieces, book illustrations and murals including for the Festival of Britain, 1951.

Romy Elliott (B.1990)

A London-based artist, Elliott studied sculpture, drawing and painting at the Florence Academy of Art (2013-2016). Fascinated by anatomy and physiology, Romy's artworks investigate human connection with dogs and horses. In her more recent paintings, Romy has developed motifs of handlers and their animals in gestural paintings with contrasting light and shadow.

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. She married fellow artist Julian Trevelyan in 1951 and took much inspiration from their travels and shared artistic style. From 1958 until 1964 she taught at the Royal College of Art and was appointed the first female tutor in the Painting School with pupils including David Hockney and Allen Jones. Subsequently, Fedden was elected Royal Academician and from 1984 to 1988 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.

Nicholas Hely Hutchinson (B.1955)

Nicholas Hely Hutchinson is an established landscape painter based in Dorset. The subject matter of many of his paintings offer glimpses of his own life - a figure in a bathroom, the flight of a bird on a cold winter landscape, a pair of cows peering over a wall. Nicholas Hely Hutchinson's style has a distinctive intensity of colour - whether working in oils on canvas or in gouache and pastel on paper. His atmospheric work captures the mood of a place with acute observation, distilling the essence of his environment both abroad and closer to home.

James Lynch (B. 1956)

James Lynch grew up in Wiltshire and lives in Somerset. He is a painter of the English landscape, skies and animals, inspired by wild flying with his paraglider. Using the ancient medium of egg tempera (made from raw ground pigments and egg yolks from his own hens) James' paintings are carefully built up over time with many glazes of paint. This technique allows him to capture his close-hand experiences with a wonderful atmospheric quality and dramatic light.

Christopher Marvell (B.1964)

Marvells' sculptures are inspired by his daily walks through the English landscape. His sculptures celebrate locality and have a quiet English based quality of man and nature, in the way that we hear countryside through Britten or Vaughan Williams. Marvell observes acutely and records - searching for the line and shape and images.

Gordon Mitchell RSA (B.1952)

Gordon Mitchell is a contemporary artist based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Relying on his photographic memory, Mitchell creates sumptuous landscapes with surreal elements that both challenge and humour the viewer. The influence of René Magritte is evident; dream-like landscapes with floating motifs and hidden figures transform the everyday into logic-defying scenes of wonder.

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Elaine Pamphillon (B.1945)

Elaine Pamphillon is inspired by the things she loves most: everyday objects, souvenirs from travels, patterns and walking in the romantic, wild countryside around her home. Drawn towards the emotional connection to being in a space, as well as the haphazard nature of the landscape and man's intervention, Pamphillon constantly takes notes of the colours, shapes, lines and textures of her surroundings when walking and travelling which inspire her paintings.

Edward Seago RBA ARWS RWS (1910-1974)

Edward Seago was essentially a self-taught artist. He was given guidance by Sir Alfred Munnings and Betram Priestman but developed his skill and technique from studying the British masters such as Constable. Brought up in East Anglia, Seago studied under Sir John Arnesby Brown and embraced many of the values of the Norwich School painters. His innovative interpretations of the rural, urban and marine scenes relied on a wonderfully fluid and refreshing use of paint. As a young artist, Seago was fascinated (like Munnings and Dame Laura Knight) by the Circus and the life of travellers. He was also interested in the stage and ballet but in time, his love of pure landscape took priority. Seago enjoyed generous patronage from numerous members of The Royal Family. He was one of the official artists appointed to paint the late Queen Elizabeth's Coronation and was invited by Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh on an expedition to Antarctica where they painted alongside each other on the deck of the Royal Yacht Britannia.

David Spiller (1942-2018)

Spiller's art is filled with life and energy, and compresses a world of influences, ideas and impressions. His first teacher was Frank Auerbach, but other influences include Picasso and Dubuffet. Spiller's art is a blend of styles, mixing the hard-hitting immediacy of Pop art - its bright colours, punchy texts and clean lines - with a deceptively simple expressionism. To these striking images, he has added another layer of intuitive freehand texts that include lines from his favourite songs (by the Beatles, Bob Dylan and other recognisable pop numbers that have seeped into his consciousness). Simultaneously fun and sincere, his work captures the imagination of adults and children alike.

Jess Wallace (B.1967)

Jess Wallace's sculptures serve as tactile memories of the animals she has reared, handled or cared for. Immortalising them in bronze, Wallace captures their individual personalities on a more intimate and domestic scale. Starting with an incredibly wet clay, Wallace builds layers of texture with the imprints of her own hands, reaffirming the connection she has with the subject matter.

Tom Wood (B.1955)

Marrying together abstraction and figuration, Tom Wood is known for his imaginative works on canvas and paper. Based in Yorkshire, Wood has been closely involved in creating The West Yorkshire Print Shop and the Yorkshire Printmakers in Leeds. He has taught internationally in Hong Kong and closer to home in the UK. Wood paints portraits, landscapes and objects in layers with unique compositions. He amalgamates subject matter to execute his artistic style.

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