

PAUL RAFFERTY – *RIVIERA*

23 October – 7 November 2025

Press Release

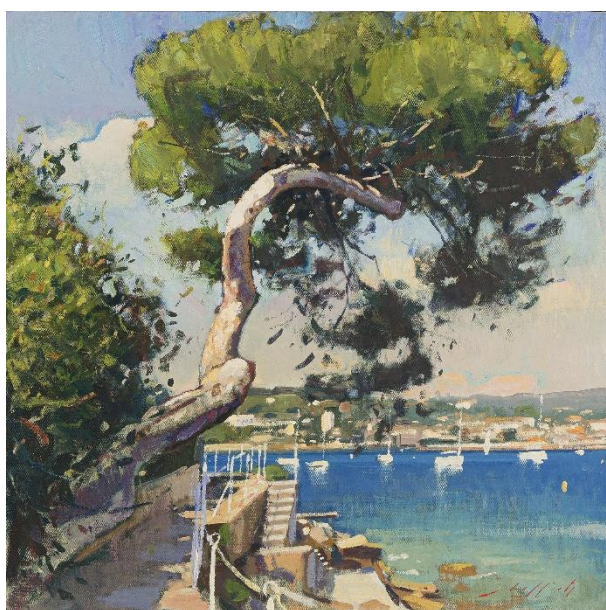
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Portland Gallery is delighted to announce ***Riviera***, a new exhibition of Paul Rafferty's work opening this October. Featuring 50 recent paintings that capture the timeless allure of the Côte d'Azur, the exhibition celebrates Rafferty's masterful ability to distil light and colour into vibrant and evocative scenes.



Leaning Pine, Cap Ferrat
- Oil on canvas, 71 x 71 cm / 28 x 28 in

For Rafferty, the Riviera is a painter's paradise – one that inspired the Impressionists and Scottish Colourists. The palette of the Mediterranean dominates throughout the exhibition: the bold primaries of red, blue and yellow tempered by complementary greens, ochres and violets that shift throughout the long sun-soaked days.

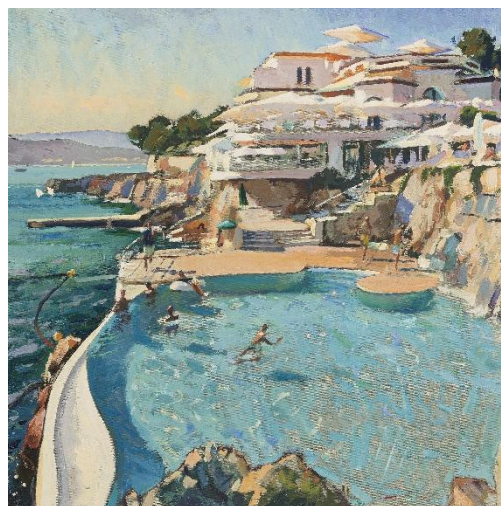
Included in ***Riviera*** are iconic views of the Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc, with languid figures by the pool, as well as the Bay of Èze which was a subject of Winston Churchill's – a dramatic cove only revealed from a private vantage point.

PORTLAND GALLERY

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The Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc
- Oil on canvas, 71 x 71 cm / 28 x 28 in

In the exhibition Rafferty turns his eye to the parasol pines, palms and cypress trees that define the region's skyline, rendering their changing colours as day moves into dusk. Bustling beach scenes of St Tropez and Juan-les-Pins sit in contrast to the quiet coastal paths of Cap d'Antibes and Cap Ferrat, evoking the Riviera's simultaneous glamour and serenity.

The exhibition also features opulent still life scenes inspired by the region – fruits from Menton and flowers from Grasse set against crisp white tablecloths.

Riviera offers a dazzling journey through one of the world's most celebrated coastlines, viewers are invited to experience the warmth, glamour and brilliance of Paul Rafferty's vision.

"I don't believe I will ever of painting on the Riviera" – Paul Rafferty, 2025



Pink Parasols
- Oil on board, 51 x 51 cm / 20 x 20 in

Artist Biography

Paul Rafferty was born in 1965 in Oxford, England. Rafferty paints primarily in oil on location en plein air and uses his studio for the completion of larger works. The common theme which runs throughout his work is his concentration on differing light effects, whether across a sun-soaked landscape, the dappled shadows in a restaurant or the play of reflections in intricate still lifes.

Rafferty is a great admirer of the work of Edward Seago and his knowledge of Seago's life and work is unparalleled. Rafferty's own work possesses the same quality of observation and the ability to capture atmosphere. In 2020 Rafferty's book 'Winston Churchill: Painting on the French Riviera' was published by Unicorn with a foreword from King Charles. In over 200 pages Rafferty pinpoints vistas that appear in Churchill's paintings as well as discussing his painting practice. Rafferty has also created life-sized statues of Churchill in the act of painting which are on display in the Port of St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, in the grounds of Blenheim Palace, and the headquarters of Pol Roger Champagne.

Rafferty has exhibited extensively across the USA and London. This is his eight exhibition with Portland Gallery.

- 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 14 exhibitions a year, principally solo presentations of represented artists and estates. The gallery is operated as an Employee Ownership Trust.

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