

NICK BOTTING: BARBICAN, VENICE AND THE SEA

12 - 28 NOVEMBER 2025

PRIVATE VIEW: TUESDAY 11TH November
6-8pm

PRESS RELEASE

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Lakeside terrace, summer
Oil on canvas, 36 x 40 in

In the light of the announcement of a £191m restoration of the Barbican, Nick Botting is interested in the value of what we have, of our cultural heritage, and of nursing and nurturing it. In a throwaway world, the Barbican and Venice are examples of a continuing heritage within which people live, and these paintings are an attempt to recognise that value.

The Barbican was designed with an Italian piazza in mind (calm open space, water, fountains and columns) and both London and Venice share the same history of being great sea trading ports. Nick Botting has made the link with people going about their daily life in these two cities and the figures he records as a fleeting presence in this bigger picture.

At first glance, Botting's paintings focus on landscape, with rolling hills or expanses of architecture but upon inspection, it is the figures that bring the paintings to life. The inhabitants of the Barbican, the locals bartering in the Rialto market and the distant swimmers on beaches animate the space. There is a sense of spontaneity in these paintings, evident in the impressionistic mark-making, often using the smallest of brushes to evoke the ever-changing 'players' of a scene.



The meeting, Venice
Oil on canvas, 16 x 24 in

"Within this broad theatre are the people that are the main players in my paintings. I spend a lot of time in front of a scene as I paint it, and that is when I see people going about their days and a narrative builds about the here and now."

– Nick Botting



The First Swimmers, Deia
Oil on canvas panel, 12 x 16 in

Artist Biography

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 Majorca. 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.

- 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 estates. The gallery is operated as an Employee Ownership Trust.