

ASCENT

An Exhibition of Paintings
by Ellis O'Connor
27 April—15 August 2019



Ellis O'Connor is a landscape artist working from her studio on North Uist. Since graduating from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in 2015 Ellis has undertaken numerous residency programmes, including ones in Iceland and Norway. In 2016, as part of the annual Arctic Circle Residency she was one of a group of artists who sailed around the Svalbard Archipelago in the High Arctic making work about the landscape and environment. Ellis exhibits her work locally and internationally.

Ellis's attachment to the natural environment stems from a childhood spent camping in the Highlands, and visiting family in the remote South West of Ireland where 'the rugged and untamed beauty of the land embedded itself in my mind and has inspired me ever since.' Like many artists, Ellis is captivated by the energy of 'the North'.

'I'm drawn to extremes, places that are raw, where the elements are unforgiving. It feels real to me and I'm fascinated by untamed lands and how they make me feel alive. Being in nature gives me perspective and it is this feeling of awe, and my own experience (of being) immersed in a wild place that I aim to put across to the viewer, so they too can feel the sheer significance of the landscape.'

The dynamic energy to be seen in Ellis's paintings is her response to observed changes in the landscape; 'the movement and rhythms of the sea and the land ... the merging of sea with air, advancing rain and mist, ever changing light - elements that seem to be about something intangible.'

In order to immerse herself in her environment, Ellis makes much of her artwork on site where extreme weather and the elements find their way into her pieces. She describes the process of working outdoors in wild weather as almost 'performative'. When outdoors she mainly uses water-based materials such as inks, combined with charcoal, conté and lots of rain!

Some of the pieces made on paper on site become the basis for larger pieces on canvas painted back in the studio. Here, Ellis usually works with oil paint, building up the surfaces using natural substances like sand and dried seaweed.

From conveying the texture and lines of the geology of the landscape to portraying the power of the elements, Ellis O'Connor wants to enable the viewer to connect with the landscape and respect what is sacred. She sees her practice fitting within the area of contemporary land and environmental art.

Collision,
100 x 100cm,
oil painting on canvas,
£1550



Approaching Front

100 x 100cm,

oil painting on canvas,

£1550



In the eye of a storm
100 x 100cm,
oil painting on canvas
£1550



Flux

60 x 60cm,

oil painting on canvas

£785



Ascent

60 x 60cm,

oil painting on canvas

£785



Headland

60 x 60cm,

oil painting on canvas

£785



Western Shore

60 x 60cm,

oil painting on canvas

£785



Change of state

40 x 30cm,

oil painting on canvas

£425



Frontiers

40 x 30cm,

oil painting on canvas

£425



Tumultuous

20 x 20cm,

oil painting on canvas

£325



Fading Island

20 x 20cm,

oil painting on canvas

£325



Ashore

20 x 20cm,

oil painting on canvas

£325



Distance

20 x 20cm,

oil painting on canvas

£325



Education

2010/14 BA Fine Art, Honours, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design

2015/16 Master of Art & Humanities with Distinction, DJCAD, Dundee

Fulltime Freelance Artist

Visit Scotland Writer and Marketing Assistant

Exhibitions

2018

Uncharted Lands, Solo Exhibition, Maclaurin Gallery, Ayrshire, 21st January – 4th March

Selected Works Cobalt Gallery, Pittenweem, 1st April – ongoing

Selected Works Morven Gallery, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, 1st April – ongoing

Solo Exhibition WWT Caerlaverock Centre, Dumfries, 28th April – 16th June

Solo Exhibition Taigh Chearsabhaigh Lochmaddy, North Uist, 1st May – 31st July

Solo Exhibition Resipole Gallery, Ardnamurchan, 6th July – 24th August

Elemental Solo Exhibition, Talla Na Mara, Isle of Harris, September 1st – 30th

2017

Murmur, An Talla Solais, Ullapool, 5th August – 16th September

Resipole Studios Autumn Group Show, Ardnamurchan, 1st September – 22nd October

Members Show, An Talla Solais, Ullapool, 30th September, 23rd December

2016

Skammdegi Group Show, Salur Myndlistarfélagsins Gallery

Listhus Art Space Group Show, Listhus 10 Art Space, Ólafsfjörður

Tracing the Land, Solo show, Mjólkurbúðin Gallery, Akureyri, Iceland

Moving Mountains, An Ealdhain Arts Trust, Lime Tree Gallery

Just Landed, New Graduate Exhibition, An Talla Solais, Ullapool

Fading Light, Grampian Arts Trust, 11th May – 24th June, Aberdeen

Dundee Science Festival, Dundee, 29th October – 13th November

Solo show, John Muir Wild Space, Pitlochry, 8th November – 4th Jan

2015

RSW Exhibition, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh

RSA New Contemporaries, Royal Scottish Academy

New Scottish Artists, Fleming Collection, Mayfair, London

Another Place, Wall Projects Solo Exhibition, Montrose

Dimmi Tell me, Group Exhibition, Patriothall Gallery, Edinburgh

Edges, Solo Exhibition, Meffan Gallery Solo Exhibition, Forfar

DJCAD Masters Show, Duncan of Jordanstone College, Dundee



Talks/ Workshops

Invited speaker to the Scottish Parliament as part of Scotland's Environmental Week
Iceland's Landscapes: Science & Art with Dr Anthony Newton & Ellis O'Connor
Speaker at the Arctic Circle Conference in Iceland

Teaching/ Workshop Experience

Freelance Workshop Facilitator with An Talla Solais Gallery in Ullapool
Deep Time Drawing Workshop Leader, Knockan Crag Assynt
Visiting Lecturer of Printmaking and Digital Media, International School of Printmaking Venice
Part time Lecturer at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design
Visiting Lecturer of Art at the Akureyri Art School in Iceland
Freelance Workshop Leader with the Tayside Healthcare Arts Trust
Cultural and Creative Engagement Officer with Listhus Art Space in Iceland
Visit Scotland Freelance Marketing Assistant

Residencies

2017

Visiting Artist, Full Fellowship to the International School of Printmaking, Venice, Jan - Feb
Bothy Project, Isle of Eigg, 15th - 22nd March
Cill Rialaig Arts Centre, Ireland, 29th March – 12th April
Leveld Arts Centre, Norway, 30th April – 31st May
ØY Festival 2017, Papa Westray, Orkney, 16th – 20th November

2016

Cove Park Residency, Cove Park, Scotland, March
Artist in Residence, Lyth Arts Centre, Wick, March
DJCAD Artist in Residence, University of Dundee
Arctic Circle expedition, selected artist to Svalbard, October

2015

Bothy Project, Sweeney's Bothy, Isle of Eigg, January
Nes artist studios, Skagaströnd, Iceland, October - November
Listhus Skammdegi AIR Award, Ólafsfjörður, December - March

Collections

Royal Scottish Academy Collection, Edinburgh
University of Dundee Private Collection, Dundee
Ninewells Hospital Private Collection, Dundee

Awards

Saltire Society & British Council International Travel Bursary
Tay Landscape Award
William Sangster Phillips Award
Royal Scottish Academy Landscape Award
Fleming Collection selected Scottish Artist
Dundee Visual Art and Craft Award
Royal Scottish Academy John Kinross Florence Scholarship
Royal Scottish Academy New Contemporaries 2015 Selected Artist



RHUEART

Rhueart Gallery is 3 miles north of Ullapool

Open Mon – Sat 10 - 5

For more information please contact the Gallery

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