

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### ‘NEW BEGINNINGS: EXPRESSION’ exhibition

**Porthminster Gallery in St Ives is pleased to open its new year of specially curated exhibitions with its annual *New Beginnings* exhibition of artworks by artists new to the gallery.**

This year’s *New Beginnings: Expression* exhibition features a complementary selection of contemporary abstract expressive paintings by two very well-established Porthmeor Studios based painters, Iain Robertson and Simon Williams, alongside London based artist Lindsay Mapes and Penwith Society St Ives artist Ian Harrold. Also showcasing new contemporary expressive ceramics by James Pegg, and Stephanie Wright.

At PORTHMINSTER GALLERY, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2DY

#### Simon Williams



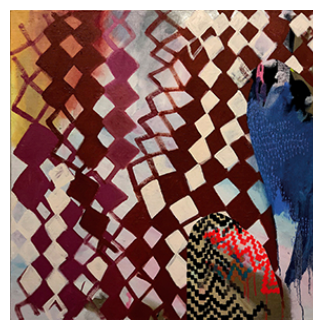
*Walk of the Gods 1*  
mixed media on canvas, 60 x 60 cm

#### Iain Robertson



*Randan*  
oil on canvas, 91 x 122 cm

#### Lindsay Mapes



*Collision*  
acrylic and oil on linen, 100 x 100 cm

#### Ian Harrold



*Homecoming*  
oil on board, 30 x 30 cm

#### James Pegg



*Slant vessel*  
action-cast porcelain, 21 cm

#### Stephanie Wright



*Saturn (left) + First Breath (right)*  
thrown and distorted clay, matt glazes

[Please click an individual image or click here](#) for press-ready 300dpi cmyk images of selected artworks.

**Exhibition:** NEW BEGINNINGS: EXPRESSION

**Location:** Porthminster Gallery, Westcott's Quay, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2DY

**Exhibition Dates:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

**Opening Times:** Mon – Sat, 10 am – 5 pm.

**Opening Reception:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2 – 4 pm. Free admission.

## ARTISTS SHOWING

### Iain Robertson

Originally from Edinburgh, Iain studied at Cumbria and Exeter Colleges of Art (1978–82). He has worked from the prestigious Porthmeor Studios since 2007, shared with artist Clare Wardman.

Robertson works across Painting, Print, Digital and Collaborative Film platforms. Presenting his practice through exhibition, open studio events, projects and teaching, his recent MEGA JAZZY-REMIX installation in Porthmeor Studio 5 brought together his research into chance operation, through multiple panel painting/digital projection works, Robertson explores colour and shape as the subject also asking questions about opening up and democratising the act of making and curating the work inviting audience engagement in the process.

#### Recent Solo Exhibitions:

*Two Trains* – Prints from the studio of Kip Gresham, Borlase Smart Room, Porthmeor Studios, St Ives, Cornwall, 2016;

*Paintings 2005–12*, 108 Fine Art, Harrogate, 2012;

Lemon Street Gallery, Truro, Cornwall, 2008;

Truro School, Truro, Cornwall, 2008;

*Fifty at Fifty*, Lemon Street Gallery, Truro, Cornwall, 2006.

#### Recent Two-person Exhibitions:

*Art- At- Wharepuke*, (with Clare Wardman), Bay of Islands, New Zealand, 2010;

*Colour and Light*, (with Clare Wardman), Hilton-Young Fine Art, Penzance, 2007;

108 Fine Art, Harrogate, Yorkshire, (with Alan Davie), 2007.

#### Recent Group Exhibitions:

*After Illusion*, Penwith Gallery, St Ives, Cornwall, 2017;

*Contemporary Abstract Printmaking*, Artists – Rachel Clark, Ian Davenport, Christopher Le Brun, John McLean, Mali Morris, Iain Robertson, Clifford Chance, Canary Wharf, London, 2017;

*On a Small Scale*, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, 2015;

*British Abstract: Post War Abstraction*, 108 Fine Art, Harrogate, 2015;

*Porthmeor Past and Present*, Falmouth Art Gallery, Cornwall, 2014;

*Perfect Balance*, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2014;

*Brilliant Colour*, Falmouth Art Gallery, Cornwall; 2014;

*St Ives Modern: Abstract Motifs and Symbols*, Porthminster Gallery, St Ives, 2014;

*Scottish Art in the 20th Century*, City Art Centre, Edinburgh, 2012;

*Mark of Beauty*, Edinburgh Arts Festival, Union Gallery, Edinburgh, 2012;

*Abstract Critical Newcomers Awards*, Kings Place Gallery, London (Selector), 2012;

*Recent Acquisitions*, City Art Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2012;

*Truro Schools Collection*, Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, Cornwall, 2012;  
*Taking Shape*, Cornwall County Schools Collection, Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, 2012;  
*Fishwick and Friends*, Falmouth Museum and Art Gallery, Cornwall, 2012;  
*Poussin Review - New to Sight*, Poussin Gallery, London, 2010;  
*Abstract Matters*, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2010;  
*Beyond Appearances: Painting and Picturing in Scottish Modern and Contemporary Art*, City Art Centre, Edinburgh, 2007;  
*Art Now Cornwall*, TATE St Ives, Cornwall, 2007.

Publications:

*The Porthmeor painters' studios of St Ives*, article by Edwin Heathcote, Financial Times Weekend Magazine, 2010;  
*Porthmeor artists' studios: crumbling beauty*, article by Emma Thomas, The Telegraph, 2008;  
*Art Now Cornwall* catalogue, TATE St Ives, Cornwall, 2007;

Awards:

Arts Council of England, 2005; British Council, 1995; Hope Scott Trust, 1994;  
The Elephant Trust, 1991; Scottish Arts Council, 1990; Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York (First Scottish Recipient), 1988.

Robertson also works in Print with Master Printmaker Kip Gresham, The Print Studio, Cambridge.

Public Collections:

Art in Healthcare Scotland; City of Edinburgh; Cornwall County Council; Falmouth Art Gallery; Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Grizedale Arts; Standard Life; Truro School; University of Edinburgh; University of Minnesota.

Private Collections worldwide.

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## **Simon Williams**

Originally from Edinburgh, Simon studied BA Hons Fine Art Painting at Loughborough College of Art and Design (1984–87), and MA Painting at Nottingham Art College (1989–90). He relocated from London in 2004 to live and work in Cornwall and for the last few years has worked from the historic Porthmeor Studios in St Ives.

Williams is a remarkably inventive artist and his approach to exploring painting, processes and materials echoes the time he has spent as a Designer in the film industry. His work is preoccupied with metamorphic, abstracted marks and their inherent chance alignments; exploring new ways to use paint to refine a visual and conceptual vocabulary. The resulting images are intended to challenge the visual

perception of the viewer, where sharp edges meet overlaying screened folds of paint, applied in thin layers to create vivid spatial surfaces. He chooses to make and modify his own palette knives and other painting tools, to push paint whilst seeking to contest the conventions and recognizable signature of the paint brush. The working process is a balance between responding to the mark making and stumbling upon unpredicted visual reference through the creation and manipulation of form.

Recent Solo Exhibitions:

*Ultra Space*, That Art Gallery, Bristol, 2018;  
*Viscosity*, Vitreous Contemporary Art, Truro, 2007;  
*Dynamism*, Vitreous Contemporary Art, Truro, 2005.

Recent Group Shows:

John Moores Painting Prize, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, 2016;  
*After Illusion*, Penwith Gallery, St Ives, 2016;  
*Autogenous*, PZ Gallery, Penzance, 2016;  
*Autogenous 2*, The Crypt Gallery, St Ives, 2016;  
*The Salon 2 Project*, 103 Art Gallery, Newquay, 2016;  
Gallery 49, Falmouth, 2015; Falmouth Art Gallery, 2015;  
*Penwith Society Summer Exhibition*, St Ives, 2015;  
*The Salon Project*, 103 Art Gallery, Newquay, Cornwall, 2015;  
*Candid Arts Spring Salon*, Islington, London, 2015;  
*Limbo*, Cornwall Art Biennial, The Old Coffin Store, Truro, 2013;  
*Recent Paintings*, Old Bakery Studios, Truro, 2013;  
*Simon Williams and Vincent Rymer*, Rainyday Gallery, Penzance, 2006;  
*Bonhams Cornish Contemporary Art*, Trewithin, Cornwall, 2005.

Teaching/Lecturing:

Newlyn Art School, Cornwall, 2018;  
Plymouth College of Art and Design, Plymouth 2016;  
Plymouth College of Art and Design, Plymouth 2007;  
Royal College Of Art, London 1998;  
Central School of Speech and Drama London 1993-96.

Publications:

*John Moores Painting Prize catalogue*, 2016;  
*Manor Magazine*, 2017;  
*Cornwall Today*, 2017;  
*My Cornwall*, 2017.

## **Lindsay Mapes**

Originally from the USA, Lindsay studied Painting at San Francisco Art Institute (1996–2000) and Studio Arts Centre International, Florence (2006–07). She then went on to study for her MFA Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL, London (2008–10). Since then she has been based in London and is being represented in St Ives for the first time.

Mapes' art explores themes of erasure, obfuscation, obstruction, and secrecy in a series of boldly-coloured paintings and drawings. Colour and pattern play a significant role in Mapes' paintings. The relationship between colour and the feelings that certain colours and colour combinations evoke is always at the forefront of her work. Through an extended editing process in which layers of form, line, and colour are built up, scraped away, revealed, and hidden, the artist draws upon the concept of the *pentimento* (from the Italian *pentirsi*, to repent), which, in painting, refers to an alteration evidenced by traces of the artist's previous mark-making, revealing the changes made during the painting process. In this way, Mapes examines how a thought process can be realized in paint.

Recent Exhibitions include:

*Colore*, SACI Gallery, Florence, Italy (2018);  
*The Other Art Fair*, London (2017/2016/2015);  
*The Marmite Prize for Painting*, London (2016 and 2012);  
*Royal Academy Summer Exhibition*, (2016 and 2013).

Mapes has been chosen and shortlisted for a number of awards including:

*The SOLO Award*, London (2018);  
*The Marmite Prize for Painting*, London (2016 and 2012);  
*Royal Academy Summer Exhibition*, London (2016 and 2013);  
*New Blood Art* Featured Artist (2016);  
*Tomorrow & Today* Featured Artist (2015);  
*Jerwood Painting Fellowship*, shortlisted, London (2012).

Mapes' works are in many public and private collections internationally.

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## **Ian Harrold**

An education at Gateway School in Leicester (1966-73) laid the foundation for Ian's work today. His Quaker headmaster encouraged a keen interest in all things creative. This led to a coveted place on a four-year fine arts course specialising in silversmithing and jewellery at the iconic Sir John Cass School of Art in

Whitechapel, London (1973–77). Whilst at Cass, the Whitechapel Art Gallery nearby provided part-time employment under Nicholas Serota, and introduced Ian to the world of fine art, in particular British Minimalism.

Harrold worked first as a Production Manager for Cartier in Bond Street and as a silversmith, successfully creating and selling his own work in the 80's, exhibiting with the Goldsmiths Company and Electrum Gallery. He also became instrumental in developing the technology for and introducing video graphics to the world of marketing, forming his own broadcast graphics company and enjoying a long career producing work for all the major UK television channels. Harrold's qualifications include a DipAd, City and Guilds Higher Diplomas in diamond mounting and gemology and a design award from the Royal Society of Arts.

A move to North Cornwall in 2014 enabled Harrold to begin an intensive period of collagraph and etching printmaking, often working in St Ives. Soon he was drawn back to working in oils, on gessoed board, providing a robust base for the techniques he uses. Harrold creates all his earth coloured paints from raw earth powder pigments acquired in London in the 70's. These hand-made paints are then mixed and layered with other oils in varying consistencies. As layers dry, they are partially removed using a variety of methods to work back through the layers – including applying pressure to the surface, effectively pushing the top layers back through the work, visually disrupting the order of the layers of paint. Works can be inspired by distant memories of time and place or the simple fluidity of a shape quickly drawn in wet sand on a Cornish or Breton beach.

Recent Exhibitions include:

*St Ives: The New Pier, New Perspectives*, Willoughby Gallery, Bude Castle Museum, 2018;

*Take 5 Artists*, Crypt Gallery, Society of Artists, St Ives, 2017;

*Associates Exhibitions*, Penwith Gallery, St Ives, throughout 2016–18;

*Press Gang – The Art of Printmaking*, Penwith Gallery, St Ives, 2016;

*Spring Exhibitions*, Limekiln Gallery, Calstock, 2015 & 2016.

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## **James Pegg**

Originally from the Lake District, James studied Textiles at Glasgow School of Art (2001-2005) before moving to London to complete an MA in Fashion at Central Saint Martins, UAL (2006-2008). Always drawn to ceramics he returned to this practice in 2015 alongside his teaching practice at University of the Arts, London. Soon to be residing in Manchester, James's ceramic work is devoted to capturing movement and the kinetic expression of his Action Casting technique through editioned gallery pieces and a studio line of functional items.

In this show James continues to explore his Action Casting technique through forms that showcase his energetic and uncontrolled way of working. Colour and movement are expressed dynamically using stained porcelain, where the split second of contact with the moulds is captured with abstract yet purposeful marks. Layered colours intersect each other rendering each piece with unique moments of James's spontaneous and gestural process.

Based in London, Pegg is being represented in St Ives for the first time.

Recent Exhibitions include:

*London Art Fair*, New Vessels shown alongside seven other ceramics artists, represented by Thrown Contemporary, Highgate, London, 2019;

*Primary Colour* (Group Show), Thrown Contemporary, Highgate, London, 2018;

*Introductions* (Group Show), Thrown Contemporary, Highgate, London, 2018.

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## **Stephanie Wright**

Based in Surrey, Stephanie established her wheel-throwing skills in the garage of her house in Oklahoma soon after moving from England in 1979. For ten years she made and sold tableware in Oklahoma and later in Norway, returning to England in 1993. Stephanie then developed two lines of decorated tableware and established a studio in the basement of her home in Dorking.

In 2007 Wright embarked on an art training at City Lit in London, graduating in 2011 with a City and Guilds Ceramic Portfolio qualification, an Art Foundation Diploma specialising in sculpture and ceramics, and a 2-year Ceramics Diploma. Together with painter Chris Forsey and sculptor Nikki Taylor, she established Sandstone Studios in Dorking, where she now works and teaches.

Wright's new sculptural ceramic works on show in *New Beginnings: Expression* explores new ways of using the potter's wheel to create flowing forms which portray the essence of waves and whirlpools, unfolding spirals and black holes. They are made in various sizes from 3 to 50 centimetres wide. Radiant matt glazes are made with barium and lithium and coloured with copper, vanadium, chromium and pigments, resulting in luminescent textured surfaces, which result in dramatically different shades according to thickness of application determined by the method of spraying on the form. On black clay, these glaze materials have a dramatically different effect, resulting in natural earthy shades breaking on the edges and swirling into the spiral ridges.

2018 Exhibitions include:

*Art in Clay*, Farnham;  
*Surrey Artist of the Year Exhibition* New Ashgate Gallery, Farnham;  
*PURE Autumn Art Show*, Battle, East Sussex;  
*Sculptural Ceramics*, Porthminster Gallery, St Ives;  
*Society of Designer Craftsmen Annual Exhibition* Chelsea College of Art;  
*AppArt Spring Show*, Priory School, Godalming;  
*Surrey Artists Open Studios*, Sandstone Studios Dorking;  
*Solo Exhibition*, Golden Hare Gallery, Ampthill (2017).

Publications:

*Ceramic Review Masterclass*, May/June 2017 and accompanying video, available on YouTube, Vimeo and Facebook/Ceramic Review;  
*Surrey Life Magazine*, July 2017, feature article.

Prices of the paintings in show range from £360 to £10,000, and prices of the ceramics range from £80 to £600.

The **Own Art** interest-free purchase plan is available on all works.

Also showing will be '**Terry Frost Prints**' celebrating the rich abstraction of the celebrated St Ives artist's work with a selling exhibition of vibrant collectable signed silkscreen prints by this great British modern master. Price range: £1,500 to £6,000. The **Own Art** interest-free purchase plan is available on all works.

### **Notes to editors**

In 2017 the award-winning Porthminster Gallery celebrated its tenth year in St Ives, Cornwall with a diverse programme of expertly curated exhibitions and events.

Established by art patrons and gallery directors Dee Bray and David Durham in York in 1999, the business was relocated to St Ives in 2007 to concentrate its focus on the art of St Ives and Cornwall. Since then the gallery has championed the work of more than 80 living British artists through its progressive and expertly curated shows, and has showcased and introduced many young up-and-coming artists to an appreciative local and global collectorship. The gallery has also gained a strong reputation during the ten years for its impressive shows and changing stock of Post War St Ives and British Art.

Porthminster Gallery won the *Cornwall Today* readers' award for 'Best Art Gallery in Cornwall' 2014/15, and has been featured in BBC2's *Coast* series and most recently in Sky Art's *Tate Walks* series.



The gallery offers buyers and collectors the easy and affordable incentive to buy original art up to £25,000 at 0% APR over 10 equal 0% APR monthly instalments with the Own Art and Own Art Plus purchase schemes.

For further information, please contact gallery manager H el ene Chaussavoine at the gallery on 01736 795888, or by email [info@porthminstergallery.co.uk](mailto:info@porthminstergallery.co.uk)  
Website: [www.porthminstergallery.co.uk](http://www.porthminstergallery.co.uk)

**Porthminster Gallery, Westcott's Quay, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2DY, UK**

Follow the gallery on Facebook and Instagram @porthminstergallery and twitter @porthmingallery