

Media Release: New Exhibition
12 October 2021

Penwith Rhythms: Ancient and Sacred Landscape.
23 October – 27 November 2021

Cornwall's Prehistoric landscape is the focus of a new exhibition of guest artists' works at Porthminster Gallery, St Ives.

The dramatic landscape of west Cornwall has captured the imagination of writers and artists for three centuries, and now this *ancient and sacred landscape* is explored and celebrated anew in this thoughtfully curated show of artworks by guest artists in *Penwith Rhythms: Ancient and Sacred Landscape*, a new exhibition featuring painters Sam Boughton, and Melvyn Evans – see *Equilibrium* (2021); glass artist and sculptor Lisa Pettibone – see *Parallax 2* (2021); sculptor Tommy Rowe; and ceramicist Charlotte Jones, at Porthminster Gallery from 23 October.

Hallowe'en is fast approaching, and with it the spectre of its Celtic precursor – the ancient festival of *Samhain* (*Allantide* here in Cornwall), celebrating the beginning of the 'cycle of the wheel' – a sort of New Year's Day, when the veil between worlds was at its thinnest.

For five thousand years here in West Penwith, Cornwall – where the dark volcanic rock meets saltwater at the shape-shifting margin twixt land and sea, the granite moors and clifftops have stood sentinel to the many ancient and sacred sites that huddle in this atmospheric and mysterious land at the very end of Britain. A magical and transmutative landscape of stone circles, standing stones, settlements, quoits, and tombs, where worlds collide and spawn a rich folklore of mermaids, giants, spriggans, knockers, piskies, and changelings.

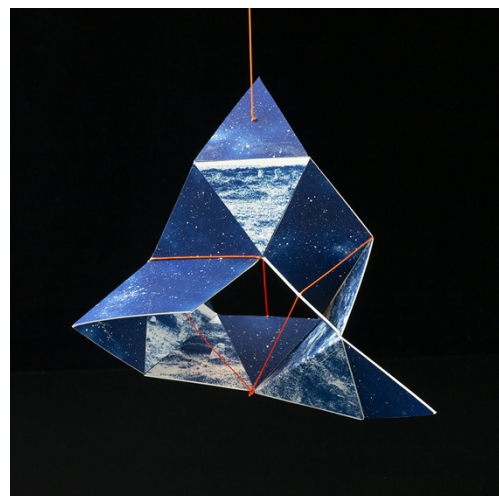
The artists' works on show are complemented by newly acquired bronze sculptures by permanent gallery artist, Margaret Lovell FRBS RWA, and works by a selection of TATE St Ives artists who were also inspired by prehistoric monuments, and the ancient landscape, notably Barbara Hepworth; Ben Nicholson; Terry Frost; Henry Moore; and Victor Pasmore. Hepworth, for example, had moved to Cornwall in 1939, and viewed the prehistoric monuments of West Penwith as sculptures in the landscape, which influenced her series of 'menhir' sculptures.

Ends



Eternal Power of Landscape II 2021

oil on canvas
h 50 cm x w 60 cm
Melvyn Evans (b. 1958)



Parallax 2 2021

cyanotype print, cord, and for hanging stand
h 23 cm x w 22 cm x d 14 cm
Lisa Pettibone (b. 1960)



Split Form: Pen Enys 2018
polished cast bronze on slate base
h 56 cm
Tommy Rowe (b. 1941)



Towards Watch Croft 2021
ink, emulsion, watercolour and pastel on paper
h 100 cm x w 88 cm
Sam Boughton

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Download press-ready images at [dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com)

Listings information:

Porthminster Gallery, 22 Fore Street, St Ives TR26 1HE
Near Barbara Hepworth Studio and Garden
+44 (0)1736 795888 | porthminstergallery.co.uk
Open six days a week, Mon–Fri, 10am–5pm, Sat, 11a– 4pm
Admission free

Social Media

#porthminstergallery
Twitter and Instagram: @porthmingallery

Notes to Editors: About the Artists

Sam Boughton

Devon-based artist Sam Boughton paints expressive semi-abstract landscapes *en plein air*, inspired by the wild and open spaces of West Penwith. Fascinated by the light, weather, and the seasons playing out upon this landscape, Boughton works on location with watercolour, inks and soft pastels on large-scale paper, to quickly capture the immediacy, the energy, and the dramatic sense of place in her emotionally charged works. The work is further developed back in her studio.

Note: Having graduated with an MA in Illustration, Boughton worked as a book illustrator for Tate, Penguin and Oxford University Press, before becoming a full-time painter.

Melvyn Evans

Kent-based artist Melvyn Evans is one of the UK's finest printmakers. Inspired by his deep connection to landscape, and often working from memory, his semi-abstract linocut prints and paintings in this show are very much about his connection to, and fascination with, the prehistoric features such as standing stones, walls, and boundary stones, that have marked west Cornwall's landscape for millennia – see *Equilibrium* (2021). These physical traces and impressions also reference the techniques Evans uses when making his prints and paintings – a rich process of marking, etching, abrading, and layering – to help reconnect us all to the past.

Note: Evans trained at Goldsmith's College, and the Royal College of Art, London, becoming a professional artist and printmaker in 1992. His signature style of strong, and bold, compositions, is inspired, in part, by the abstract land- and seascape-based works by the St Ives School of artists – alongside the works of William Scott, and sculptors Henry Moore, and Barbara Hepworth.

Lisa Pettibone

Inspired by the solar cycles and light moving across the landscape aligning with important Neolithic sites across Cornwall, the award-winning California-born artist Lisa Pettibone has created a series of suspended cyanotype paper sculptures, and screen-printed fused, and shaped glass sculptures. The prehistoric sites referenced in the works include: *Chun Quoit*; *Seven Sisters*; and *Tregeseal Stone Circle* – see *Parallax 2* (2021).

Note: One of Pettibone's sculptures has been selected to go to the International Space Station in Feb 2022! *Verdant* is a tiny 1cm glass and thread piece related to the chlorophyll molecule. It is part of the Moon Gallery initiative based in The Netherlands who are working to eventually place the first gallery on the moon making a statement about the importance of representing the humanities in space exploration.

Tommy Rowe

Cornwall-born sculptor Tommy Rowe is still actively sculpting at the age of 80, from his home and studio in Inverness-shire, creating sculptures inspired by the dramatic coastal rock forms and landscapes of his native West Penwith.

Born in 1941 in the tiny fishing village of Mousehole in West Cornwall, he first became interested in sculpture in 1957 when the sculptor Denis Mitchell taught at his local grammar school in Penzance. Rowe went on to study at the Bath Academy of Art from 1960–63. On his return to Cornwall, he was introduced by Mitchell to Barbara Hepworth, who offered Rowe work as her full-time studio assistant, which he did between 1963 and 1965. There he learned the skills of carving marble and working with plaster casts.

Notes to Editors: About Porthminster Gallery

In 2017 the award-winning Porthminster Gallery celebrated its tenth year in St Ives, Cornwall.

Established by art patrons and gallery directors David Durham and Dee Bray-Calvert in York in 1999, the business 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 90 living British artists through its progressive and expertly curated programme of 160+ 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 over the last 13 years for its impressive shows and changing stock of 20th Century Modern 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 more 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 £2,500 spread over 10 monthly instalments 0% APR with the Own Art purchase scheme.

All images: © the Artists
Courtesy the Artists and Porthminster Gallery

To view a virtual 3-D tour of the gallery's current exhibition please click the link below:

[VIRTUAL TOUR OF 'CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS: FORM THROUGH FIRE' SHOW](#)