

Media Release: New Exhibition
10 February 2022

First Blush: Spring Collection
featuring Sam Boughton, Melvyn Evans, Trevor Price and Erin Ward
18 February – 11 June 2022

The glory of springtime and the concept of reawakening are the focus of this curated, changing collection of new artworks that capture the essence of the season of rebirth.

Porthminster Gallery is pleased to announce *First Blush: Spring Collection*, a group exhibition bringing together new paintings, prints, ceramics and sculptures by selected artists, whose practice celebrates their reawakening from winter's lockdown.

All of these artists are creating works that reflect their personal inner spaces in response to the natural world they live in, and their place within it.

As the show progresses along its journey, new *Spotlight* collections of works by invited artists will spring up, notably: London-based Darren Appiagye's pyrographic turned wood vessels; and Trevor Price's drypoint and engraved relief prints from an ongoing series of Woodland-themed works, will mark the *International Day of Forests* (21 March). A *Spotlight* on pioneering women artists (Sandra Blow, Wilhelmina-Barns Graham, and Barbara Hepworth) of the St Ives Movement will mark *International Womens' Day* (8 March).

If you would like to receive a preview of all the works that will feature in the exhibition, or information about pricing, please contact the gallery via catherine@porthminstergallery.co.uk

The featured artists' works will be complemented by newly acquired sculptures and ceramics by permanent and invited artists, along with works for sale by a selection of Tate St Ives artists who were also inspired by springtime and nature, notably: Terry Frost; Barbara Hepworth; Patrick Heron; and Bryan Pearce. Heron, for example, created works in direct response to the light, colour and natural shapes that surrounded his home and studio high above Zennor in west Cornwall.

Ends



All that is Spring 2022
ink, emulsion, watercolour and pastel on paper
h 80 x w 100 cm
Sam Boughton



First Glow 2022
acrylic on canvas
h 92 x w 92 cm
Erin Ward (b. 1966)

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Listings information:

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

Social Media

#porthminstergallery
Twitter and Instagram: @porthmingallery

Notes to Editors: About the featured 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.

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.

Note: This is Boughton's second showing in the gallery, following the sellout debut of her works in the gallery's *Penwith Rhythms* group show in 2021.

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 are very much about his fascination with ancient features, such as the standing stones and boundary stones, that have marked west Cornwall's landscape for millennia. 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.

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.

Note: This is Evans's second showing in the gallery, following the sellout debut of his paintings and printworks in the gallery's *Penwith Rhythms* group show in 2021.

Trevor Price

Perhaps best known for creating intimate and tender romantic scenes with the view from his studio in St Ives as an evocative backdrop, and drawing on the influences of preceding artists, such as Picasso and Nicholson, Price has more recently been absorbed in ongoing series' of 'Woodland'-, and 'Waves'-themed drypoint and engraved relief prints.

Price grew up in Cornwall and studied at Falmouth specialising in printmaking, and then on to Winchester School of Art. On leaving college he went on to work in a London etching studio, learning the skills of professional printmaking. Price was elected a member of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers when only 28 years old, and elected Vice President from 2013–18. His work is globally recognised, and he has won several national printmaking awards. His works are held in many public, corporate and private

collections, including:

V & A Museum, London; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Guangdong Museum of Art, China; Bank of England, London; His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent.

Note: Price is an acclaimed master printmaker and is one of the gallery's permanently represented artists.

Erin Ward

Yorkshire-based painter Erin Ward is passionate in the mark-making processes she employs to express the raw elemental nature of the light, seas and weather of Cornwall in her coastal landscapes. Ward's previous collections of work have been in direct response to time spent walking, absorbing the atmosphere and the energy of this special place. However, notwithstanding the COVID-19 travel restrictions of the past 18-months, Ward has triumphed in creating the present collection of engaging and visceral new works, purely from a strongly rooted 'memory of place'.

Ward trained at Northumbria University, Newcastle, gaining a BA (Hons) Fine Art: Painting. She has exhibited successfully in the UK and abroad, with work being held in many private collections: London; New York; France; Germany; and Cyprus. Erin is an art tutor at Ramsgill Studio, North Yorkshire, and is a Committee Member of Leeds Fine Artists Group.

Note: Ward has been one of the gallery's permanently represented artists, since 2009.

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 as *Minster Fine Art*, 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.

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