

Media Release: New Exhibitions and Events

Exhibition: **FIRST BLUSH : Spring Collection**

Opens: Saturday, 30 March 2024

Ends: Saturday, 8 June 2024

The Porthminster Gallery celebrates the long-awaited arrival of Spring, with this curated show of new contemporary artworks by selected gallery and guest artists. This uplifting show also marks a return to the gallery of sculptural jewellery by Cornish and British makers, in this restorative season of budding and regrowth.

Gallery Artists:

Award-winning Cornish artist **Amy Albright** takes inspiration from south Cornwall's coastline in her atmospheric, layered oil paintings where the ethereal half-imagined, half-real boundaries of land and water merge, to give the viewer a sense of calm serenity – albeit one tinged with a lurking air of mystery and the unknown.

Derbyshire based artist **Andrew Bird** is best known for his captivating abstract paintings of Cornish coastal landscapes. Here, though, his lesser-known printmaking practice is in the spotlight with this new series of unique handmade monoprints charting Bird's distorted geometry of the landscape and nature into abstract vocabularies – as had notable key artists associated with the St Ives Movement – Ben Nicholson, Patrick Heron, Victor Pasmore, and Barbara Hepworth – examples of whose original prints also feature in show.

Sam Boughton's new series of expressive semi-abstract landscapes were painted *en plein air*, at coastal locations between Cape Cornwall and St Ives. Fascinated by the light, weather, and the seasons playing out upon West Penwith's wild and open spaces, Boughton works with mixed media on large-scale paper, to quickly capture the immediacy, energy, and dramatic sense of place in these emotionally charged works. The works were then developed further in her studio in Devon, where she lives.

Guest Artists:

Showing for the very first time in Cornwall, Cambridgeshire based silversmith **Hannah Souter's** sculptural fine jewellery is inspired by delicate organic structures – especially of seed pods and buds – found in nature. By combining subtle surface textures with contrasting finishes, Souters' unique silver creations include 18ct gold detail, freshwater pearls, or semi-precious beads.

Cornish ceramicist **Rhiannon Petrucci's** hand built and pit-fired Cornish stoneware clay *Goddess* vessels and *Earth Mother* statuettes – celebrate the *divine feminine* at this seasonal time of birth and rebirth, fertility, and reawakening.

Price range of the works in show: £55 to £2,500.

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.

Sample Images:

[Click to request press-ready images](#)



'Dome' pendants 2023

by **Hannah Souter**

oxidised silver, 18 carat gold and haematite beads



Large and Voluptuous 'Goddess' vessel

by **Rhiannon Petrucci**

pit-fired, burnished Cornish stoneware clay

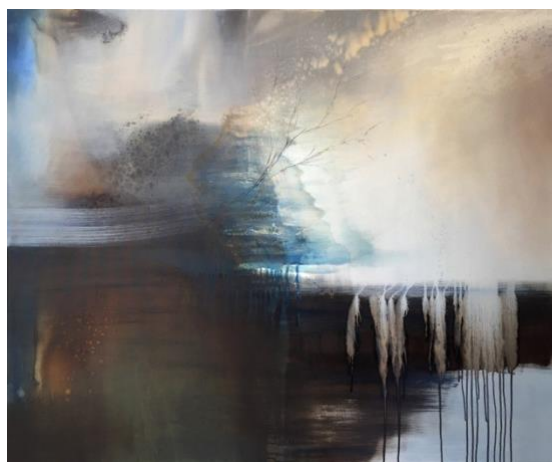


'A Working Place' 2023

by **Andrew Bird**

monotype print on paper

image size: 35.5 cm x 44.6 cm



'Ever Shifting Vision' 2023

by **Amy Albright**

oil on canvas

h 100 cm x w 120 cm

Press Enquiries:

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Artist statements + Biographies:

[Click to access files](#)

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

Instagram: @porthmingallery

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. In July 2022, the gallery opened an adjacent second gallery venue, dedicated to showing these works in a first-floor apartment-like space.

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.