

20th April 2026

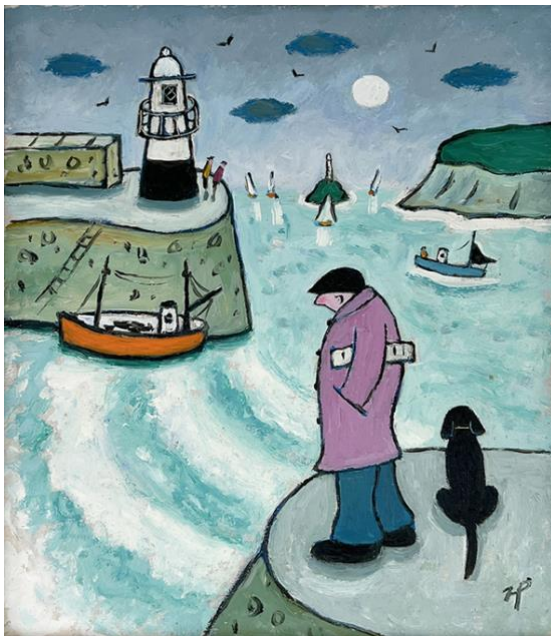
Press Release: August/September Art Exhibition

PORTHMINSTER GALLERY ST IVES

Joan Gillchrest

A Passion for Penwith and its People

8th August to 26th September 2026



St Ives Harbour Mouth by Joan Gillchrest (1918–2008)
Oil on board. Signed (initialled 'JG'). H 20.5 x W 18 cm.



St Ives Still Life by Joan Gillchrest (1918–2008)
Oil on board. Signed (initialled 'JG'). H 20.5 x W 20 cm.

The celebrated Mousehole-based naïve artist Joan Gillchrest died in 2008. Her passion for Penwith and its people is vividly expressed in this lovingly curated exhibition of oil-on-board paintings depicting the rugged, sometimes humorous Cornish fishing life of Newlyn, Mousehole, and St Ives. Pitching and rolling fishing boats, quaint coastal harbours and villages, and their local "fisherfolk" are all on show.

From 8th August to 26th September 2026, the Porthminster Gallery presents 'Joan Gillchrest: A Passion for Penwith and its People', a selling showcase of collectable paintings by the highly collected artist, Joan Gillchrest.

Her naïve style was deeply influenced by the St Ives School, particularly the works of Alfred Wallis, Christopher Wood, and Bryan Pearce.

The exhibition is enhanced by a curated selection of works by **Bryan Pearce**, alongside newly hand-painted ceramics by **Anne Barrell**. It will run for the duration of the **St Ives September Festival**.

All works in the exhibition are for sale, with prices ranging from £1,900 to £4,900 for framed paintings by Joan Gillchrest, and £50 to £400 for ceramics by Anne Barrell.

The Own Art 0% APR purchase plan is available on all works in the show. Please enquire for further information.

Joan Gillchrest

Biography

Joan Linda Gilbert Scott was born in 1918 at Bentinck Street, London, to Dr Sebastian and Alice Gilbert Scott. She was educated at Rosemead School, Upper Chine School on the Isle of Wight, and Wadhurst Boarding School. In 1934, she travelled to Paris to learn French and deepen her interest in art, where she met Gwen John in her studio.

Between 1935 and 1939, she studied at the Grosvenor School of Art and exhibited her work at the Royal Academy, the New English Art Club, and the London Group. At the start of the Second World War, she volunteered as an ambulance driver for Westminster Hospital. In 1942, Joan married Samuel Gillchrest, and the following year their daughter, Marguerite, was born; their son Paul followed in 1947. The couple divorced in 1953, after which Joan turned to modelling for prominent London fashion houses to support herself and continue her painting.

After relocating to Tite Street in Chelsea in 1955, she met the Artist Adrian Ryan. They moved to Cornwall in 1958, and Joan purchased a cottage in Mousehole. The pair separated in 1965, with Adrian returning to London, leaving Joan to focus on her painting. She soon began exhibiting locally in Mousehole, Penzance, and St Ives, which led to her first solo exhibition at Plymouth Art Gallery in 1969.

Over the following decade, Joan's career continued to grow, and she participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including at the New Ashgate Gallery in Farnham, Windsor and Eton Fine Art Company Ltd, Leon Suddaby Fine Art, Newlyn Orion, and the New Craftsman in St Ives. In 1990, she held her first exhibition at the Wren Gallery in Burford, where she went on to present annual solo shows from 1991 until her death in 2008.

Porthminster Gallery, 22 Fore Street, St Ives, TR26 1HE
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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 Monday to Friday, 10 am – 5 pm.
Saturdays, by appointment. Sundays, closed.
Admission free.

Social Media:

#porthminstergallery
Facebook: @porthmingallery

Notes to Editors: About Porthminster Gallery

With an international reputation amongst art and craft collectors for its paintings, sculptures, and quality contemporary studio ceramics, the award-winning Porthminster Gallery is regarded as one of the most important spaces for contemporary artists in St Ives. In 2025 the Porthminster Gallery celebrates its eighteenth year in St Ives, Cornwall, and 25 years in business.

Established by art patrons and gallery directors David Durham and Dee Bray-Calvert in York in April 2000 as the 'Adze' and 'Minster Fine Art' galleries, the business was relocated to St Ives in 2008 as the 'Porthminster Gallery' 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 18 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.