RUTH STAGE



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Photography: Peter Cattrell ISBN: 978-1-908753-16-8 Front cover: Picnic by River Verdon 80 x 100 cm egg tempera on gesso board

Right: Paint on the artist's studio wall



RUTH STAGE

3 – 26 August 2013

RUTH STAGE

In this new body of work, for her first exhibition at Campden Gallery, Ruth Stage has included landscapes of London parks, Suffolk marshes, the Cotswolds, beaches in Cornwall, Pembrokeshire and the North East of England, as well as paintings of Provence in the south of France. There is a particular focus on winter mornings in parks, where the atmospheric light and the physical nature of frost give an otherworldly quality to the image. Within her paintings of natural environments, the abstract shapes in the relationships between foreground and background are a characteristic aspect. At times these are less clearly delineated by figurative forms and can be read purely as patterns within nature. In parallel, there is an exploration of the surface of the painting through pattern, mark making and form, seen in the reflections on beaches and in foliage.

Recent larger paintings on board, have afforded a looser painting process and elements of under painting, or the white ground, are sometimes visible through the more descriptive areas of landscape. It seems that the immediacy of preparatory watercolour studies Stage produces is starting to translate in the major works on board.

Painting in her East Dulwich studio with views across London, Stage works in a room bathed in natural light with the fluctuating effects of light across the cityscape clearly evident. Working in egg tempera on carefully prepared gesso-primed boards her paintings evolve through a process of thin layers of pigment that are applied with a mixture of transparent washes, with opaque areas of concise detail.

Vivid colour is generated through the rich quality of the pure pigment that is mixed with egg yolk to create the painted surface. This produces subtle relationships of close tertiary colours evident within natural environments and in the intense turquoise colour used to describe water in the south of France. These thin washes, applied over the dense white ground of gesso, create surprising optical effects. The paintings often start off as luminous washes of primary colour, which are then moderated by a subsequent layer of more subdued colour, which provides the descriptive detail of the scene. When the under painting remains visible and combines with the surface layer it creates the surprising optical effects that Stage's work is known for.

The unorthodox compositions of Bonnard's large canvases in the Musée D'Orsay in Paris and the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist collections there have been a recent inspiration to Stage. Her interest in contemporary painters such as Peter Doig and the subtlety and understatement of mid-twentieth century British artists such as Paul Nash, Ben Nicholson and Eric Ravillious has also been most important.

2013 has been an important year for Ruth Stage, with widespread publicity being generated by her being awarded first prize in the national Lynn Painter-Stainer's competition in February, for her painting 'The Isabella Plantation', having previously been runner up in the same competition in 2006.

Henry Beesley, July 2013

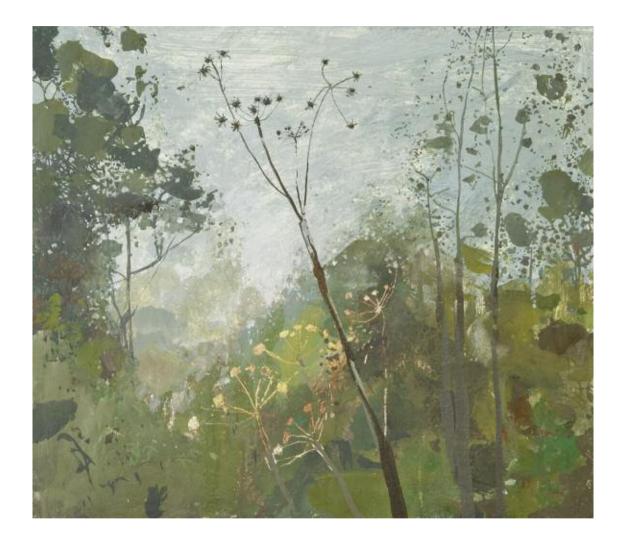


Turquoise Garden with Cedar Tree 84 x 100 cm egg tempera on gesso board





Tropical Garden, Antibes 55 x 63 cm egg tempera on gesso board Bluebell Wood 56 x 64 cm egg tempera on gesso board





Hedge Parsley, Gloucestershire 48 x 56 cm egg tempera on gesso board Marigolds, Buscott 48 x 60 cm egg tempera on gesso board





Cornish Beach with Dramatic Weather 56 x 64 cm egg tempera on gesso board Figure on Cornish Coastline 100 x 120 cm egg tempera on gesso board





Surfers, Cornwall 26 x 35 cm egg tempera on gesso board Swimmers, Verdon 70 x 80 cm egg tempera on gesso board





Cornish Sea with Children Swimming 48 x 56 cm egg tempera on gesso board Figure on Beach with Reflections 70 x 80 cm egg tempera on gesso board





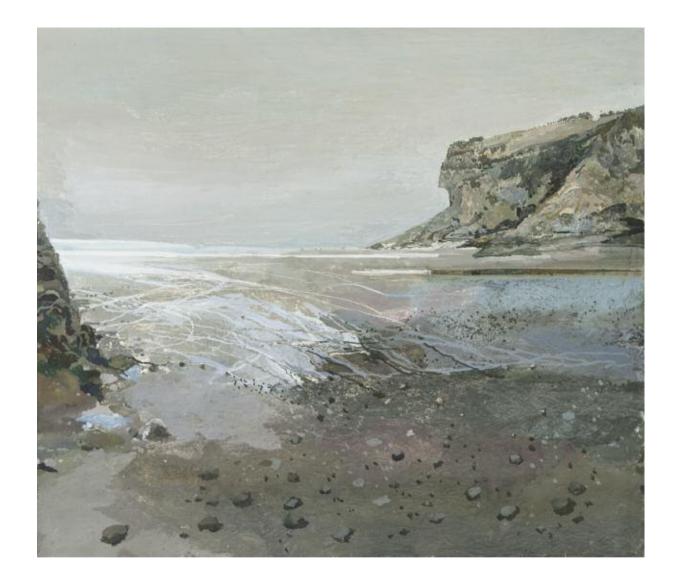
Arial View, Pembrokeshire 36 x 43 cm egg tempera on gesso board Sunburst on Saltburn Beach 53 x 61 cm egg tempera on gesso board



Fossil Hunting, Whitby 31 x 36 cm egg tempera on gesso board



Figure on Rocky Shoreline 30 x 36 cm egg tempera on gesso board



Cliff Edge in Pembrokeshire 56 x 64 cm egg tempera on gesso board

Seed Heads In December 100 x 120 cm egg tempera on gesso board



Evening Sunshine, Peckham Rye Park 35 x 43 cm egg tempera on gesso board





Frost Edged Morning 70 x 80 cm egg tempera on gesso board





Starlings with Huts and Farmhouses 56 x 64 cm egg tempera on gesso board Seed Heads in December in Orange Tones 56 x 64 cm egg tempera on gesso board



Cornish Jetty 48 x 55 cm egg tempera on gesso board

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992-95	Royal Academy Schools
988-92	Newcastle University
987-88	Cleveland College of Art

RUTH STAGE		2004	DACS, 20th Anniversary Exhibition, The Mall	
Born 1969,	, Hartlepool		Lloyds TSB, New English Art Club	
			Waterhouse and Dodd, London	
Education			Geedon Gallery, Colchester, Essex	
1992-95	Royal Academy Schools		'Art London', Duke of York's HQ	
1988-92	Newcastle University	2003	'The View', Orleans House, Twickenham	
1987-88	Cleveland College of Art		Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy	
			Cedar House Gallery, Ripley	
Solo exhib	Solo exhibitions (since 2000)		NEAC, Royal Academy, Friends' Room	
2013	'Common Ground' (with David Brayne), Hilton Fine Art, Bath		'Serious Pleasure', Centro d'Art Modigliani, Florence, Italy	
2012	Hilton Fine Art, Bath		Cedar House Gallery, Ripley	
2011	Russell Gallery, Putney, London		'Art London', Duke of York's HQ	
2009	Russell Gallery, Putney, London	2001	Laing Open Exhibition, Mall Galleries	
2006	Oakham Gallery, London (with Ben Sullivan)		Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy	
	New Grafton Gallery, London	2000-01	Twentieth Century Art Fair, RCA	
2004	Villiers David Award Exhibition, New Grafton Gallery, London		-	
2003	New Grafton Gallery, London	Awards and prizes		
2002	'Light and the Landscape', John Davies Gallery, Stowe	2013	Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize – first prize winner	
	HW Fine Art, The Air Gallery, London	2011	The Critic's Choice (New English Art Club)	
	Samling Foundation, Keswick		The Arts Club Prize (New English Art Club)	
2001	New Grafton Gallery, London	2010	The Woodhay Gallery Prize	
2000	Castlegate House, Cockermouth	2006	Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize – runner up	
		2004	NEAC Painters and Stainers Prize	
Selected group exhibitions (since 2000)		2004 & 05	Manya Igel Fine Arts Prize	
2013	Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize, Mall Galleries, London	2003	Villiers David Travel Award – winner (South East Asia)	
	RAC Club Centenary Exhibition, Epsom and Pall Mall		The Arts Club Prize, NEAC	
2012	Affordable Art Fair, Battersea (with Manya Igel)	2000 & 01	Villiers David Travel Award – runner up (Scandinavia &	
	'Ars Poetica The Land', Hilton Fine Art, Bath		Kenya)	
	NEAC – Open Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London	1999	Elected Member of the New English Art Club	
	New English Art Club at Bankside Gallery, London	1996	M&G Prize – Young Artist of the Year, RA Summer	
	Geedon Gallery, Colchester, Essex		Exhibition	
2011	Messum Gallery, Selected NEAC Members	1995	Hunting Art Prize – runner up, Young Artist of the Year	
	Geedon Gallery, Essex		Nat West Prize, finalist	
	NEAC – Open Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London		David Murray Travel Scholarship (Italy)	
2010	NEAC at the Russell Gallery	1994	British Institute Prize	
	Geedon Gallery, Colchester, Essex		Tony Smith Landscape Award, RA Schools	
	Manya Igel, 20/21, Royal College of Art, London			
2009	Grainger Gallery, two-person show, Whitstable	Collections		
-	Geedon Gallery, Colchester, Essex	Artbuthnot	Latham & Co, AT Kearney,	
2006	Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize, Painter's Hall, London		Border Television, Charing Cross Hospital,	
	Autumn Exhibition, Geedon Gallery, Colchester	Chevron UK, Durham University,		
	Manya Igel 20/21 Royal College of Art London	Hiscox PLC, HSBC, Jo Hambro Investment Management.		

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	Autumn Exhibition, Geedon Gallery, Colchester		, Durham University,	
	Manya Igel, 20/21, Royal College of Art, London		HSBC, Jo Hambro Investment Management,	
2005	'Bred and Buttered in the North', New Grafton Gallery	M&G Group, Nat West Bank, Pearl Assurance,		
2	Waterhouse and Dodd, London		l Football Association	



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