

BRUCE YARDLEY



3-1-4-XL

Bruce Yardley

28th June – 16th July
2020



Fifth Avenue Flags, 51 x 61cm, Oil on Canvas

Please note there are more images online where you can also see all prices
Front Cover: Fifth Avenue Reflections, 102 x 122cm, Oil on Canvas

Bustling cafes. Tourists crammed into historic squares. Railway stations teeming with commuters. And not a mask in sight. The subjects of Bruce Yardley's latest works for the Catto seem like echoes of a distant era. In a world slowly re-opening after lockdown, they are a poignant reminder of the way we used to live. He even includes a painting of an intact Notre Dame. How fast things change.

Happily, Bruce's facility with a paint brush hasn't gone anywhere. The 45 works in this new show – his 12th for the Catto – reveal an artist at the top of his game. Bruce is undoubtedly one of the world's pre-eminent impressionist painters. He's a huge admirer of the late 19th century art of Boudin, Monet, Sargent, Sickert, Whistler. He likes everything about their approach – from the brushwork to the composition to the choice of subject.

"What I especially like about these artists is their willingness to paint almost everything that passes before their eyes," he explains. "For them, there is no hierarchy of worthiness in subject matter. Equally liberating, for me, is their brisk, vigorous paint-handling, especially as a means of conveying the fleeting effects of light."

Like the Impressionists, Bruce makes water a central theme of his work. He uses the reflections found in rivers and rainy pavements to explore the qualities of sunlight and made-made illumination. There are many examples in the new show. In Chelsea Embankment at Night, neon colours dance across the Thames. Belfort from Rosenhoedkaai showcases a fiery red sky reflected in the glass-like water below. Meanwhile, there's a certain melancholy in the rain-soaked streets of Hot Dog Stand, Fifth Avenue.

The latter painting is one of a handful in the collection depicting the US. It's interesting to see Bruce bring an impressionistic eye to the streets of Manhattan. He experiments a little here. Empire State from Uptown is an especially striking piece. It has all the loose brushwork of an impressionist work. But the painting shoots narrowly upwards to reflect the architecture of the city. In this, it is unlike anything painted by Monet et al.

Elsewhere, Bruce brings us accomplished cityscapes from Florence, Bruges, Oxford, London and Paris. There are also a series of charming interiors. On the surface, these are pleasingly unfussy paintings. But not so fast. Look closely at the subtle detail in a canvas such as Peonies on the-Regency Wine Table – the shadow cast by the window, the reflective sheen on the table surface. This is high quality work, executed by an artist who has studied light for his entire career.

What a fine collection of paintings to start the easing of lockdown at the Catto. Let's hope that Bruce is soon back with his brushes in the world's most beautiful cities. And that the squares and pavements are full of people.



Empire State from Uptown,
91 x 30, Oil on Canvas



Red Umbrella, Fifth Avenue, 122 x 102, Oil on Canvas



Rush Hour, Grand Central Station, 61 x 76, Oil on Canvas



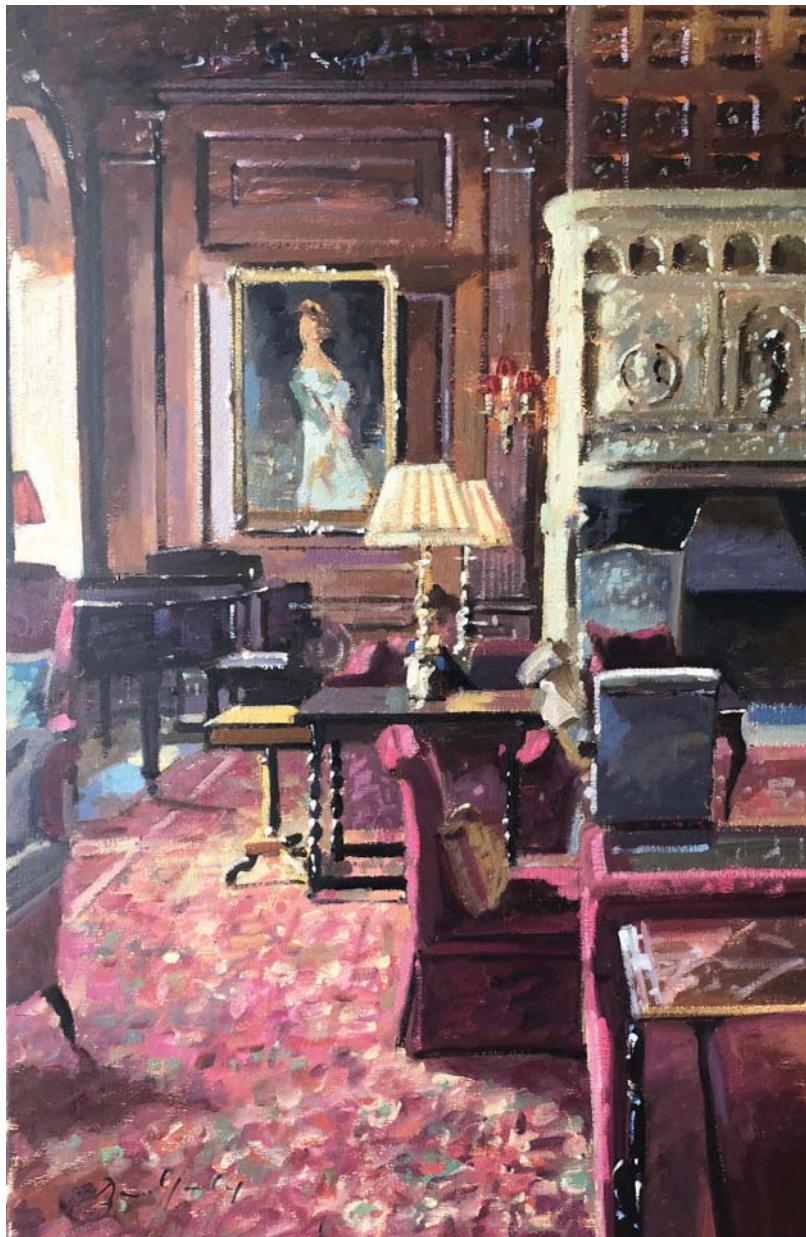
Rain, Fifth Avenue, 76 x 51, Oil on Canvas



Manhattan Rain, 76 x 61, Oil on Canvas



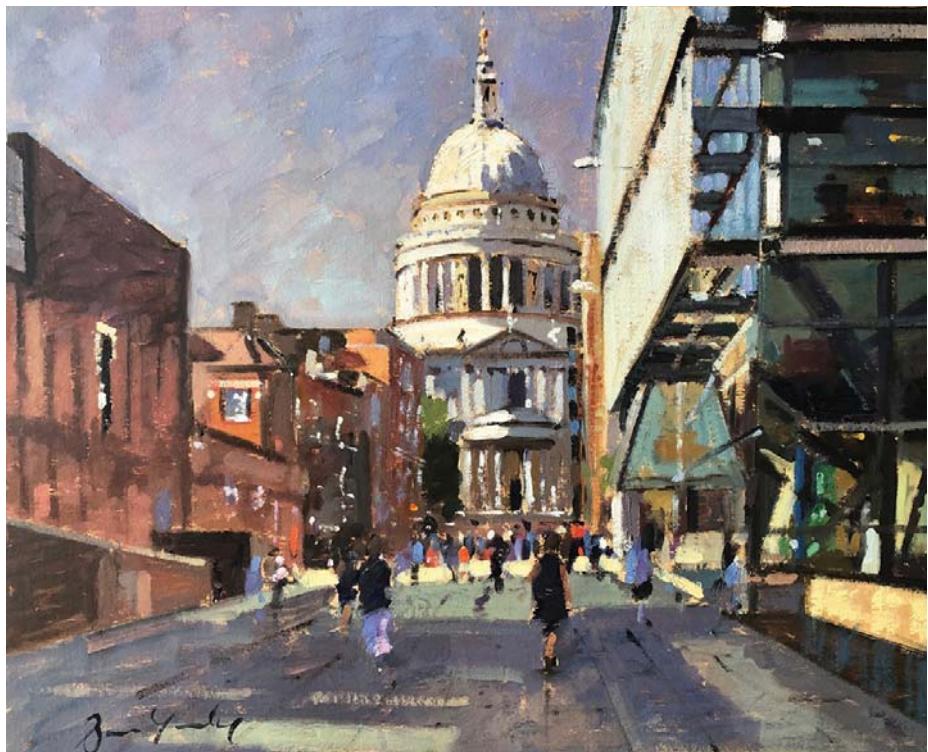
Hot Dog Stand, Fifth Avenue, 51 x 41, Oil on Canvas



A Portrait of Cliveden, 75 x 51, Oil on Canvas



Chelsea Embankment at Night, 30 x 51, Oil on Canvas



Summer Afternoon, St Pauls, 41 x 51, Oil on Canvas



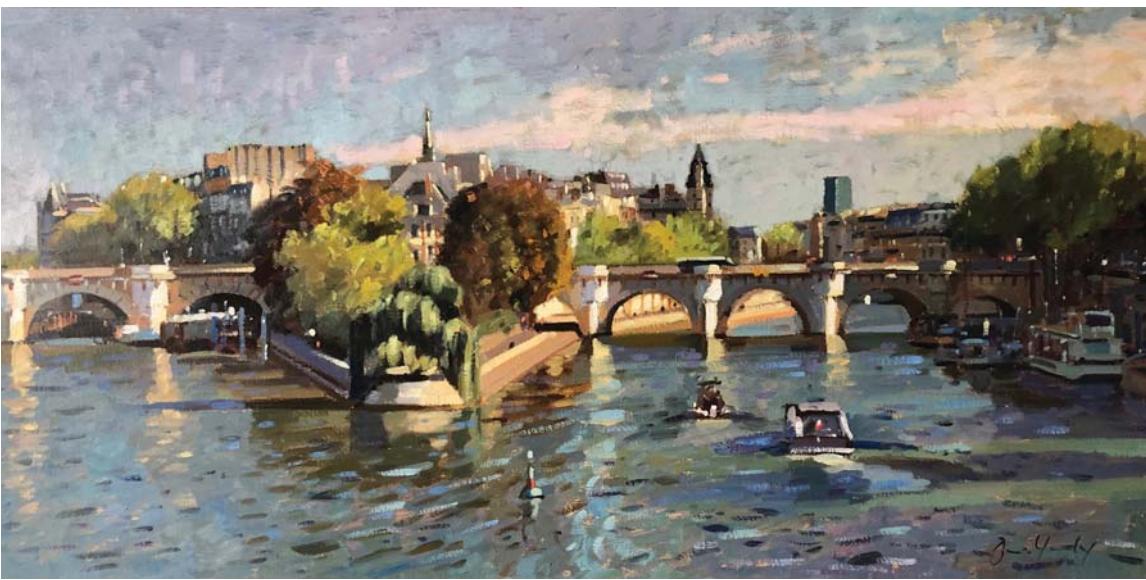
National Gallery Reflections, 51 x 76, Oil on Canvas



Rainbow Umbrella, Trafalgar Square, 61 x 51, Oil on Canvas



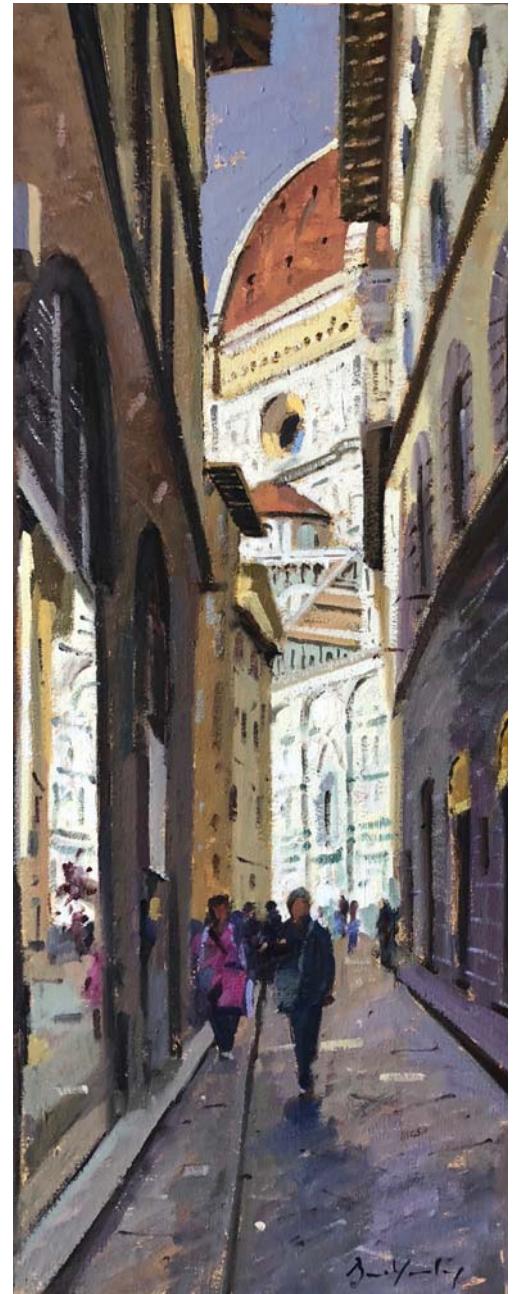
National Gallery Nocturne, 41 x 61, Oil on Canvas



Île de la Cité from Passerelle des Arts, 51 x 102, Oil on Canvas



Il Redentore and the Giudecca, 20 x 61, Oil on Board



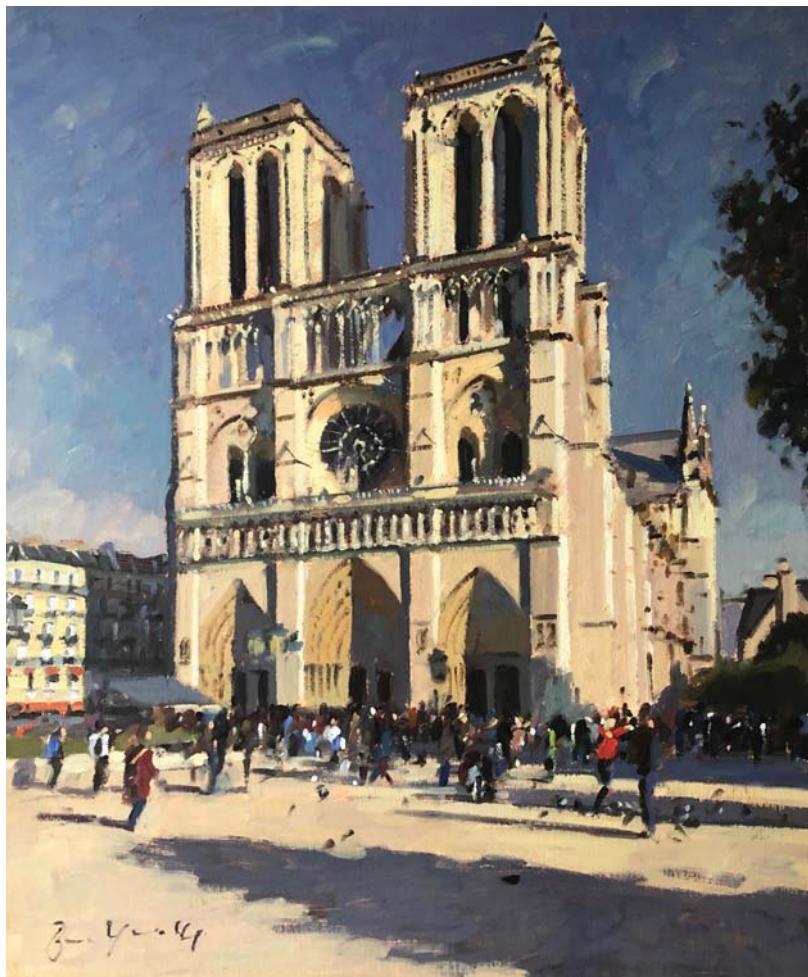
Duomo Corridor, Florence,
76 x 30, Oil on Canvas



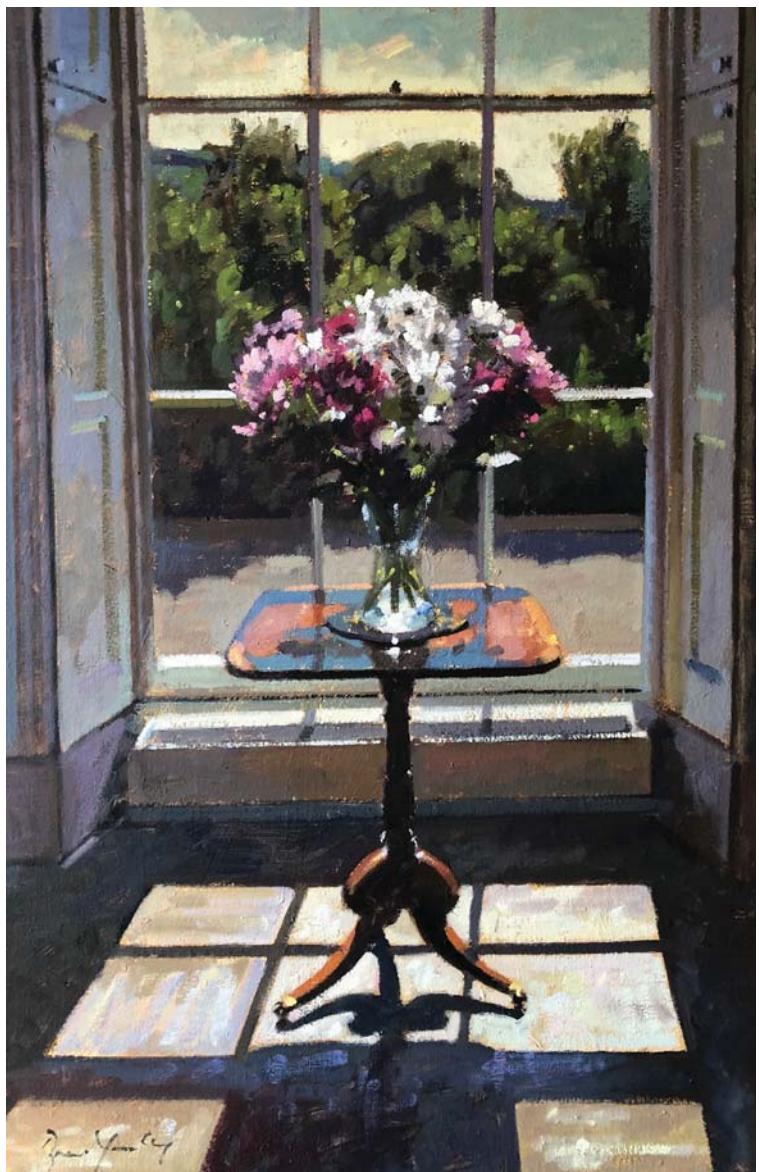
Red Canopies, Ile St Louis, 30 x 41, Oil on Canvas



From Pont de l'Archeveche: Dusk, 41 x 61, Oil on Canvas



West Front, Notre-Dame, Afternoon, 61 x 51, Oil on Canvas



Mixed Daisies in the Window, 76 x 51, Oil on Canvas



Mantelpiece, December Sun, 41 x 61, Oil on Canvas



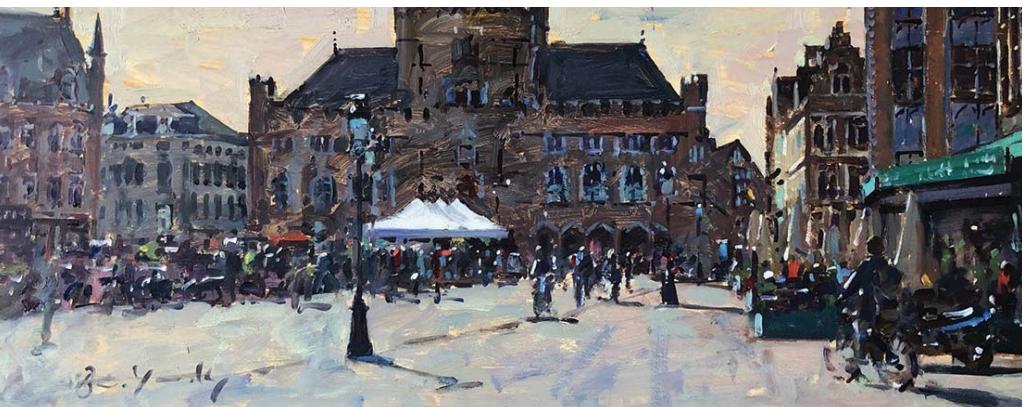
Campo Santo Spirito, Night, 61 x 76, Oil on Canvas



Cafe Corner, Ile St Louis, 20 x 51, Oil on Board



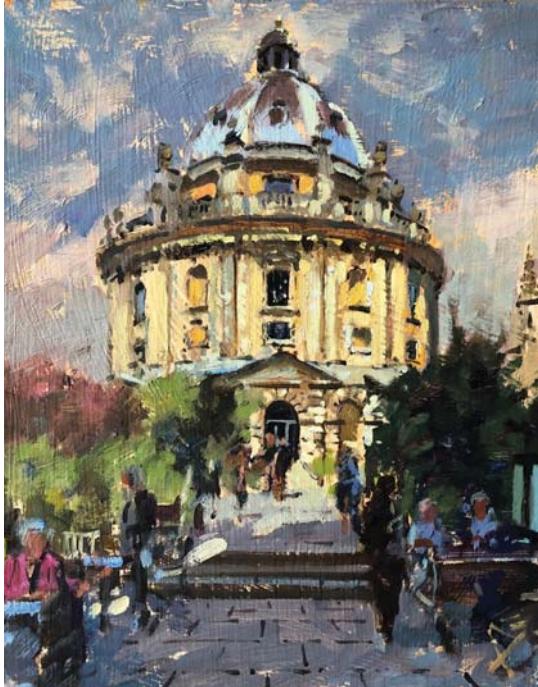
Markt, Bruges, Afternoon, 20 x 51, Oil on Board



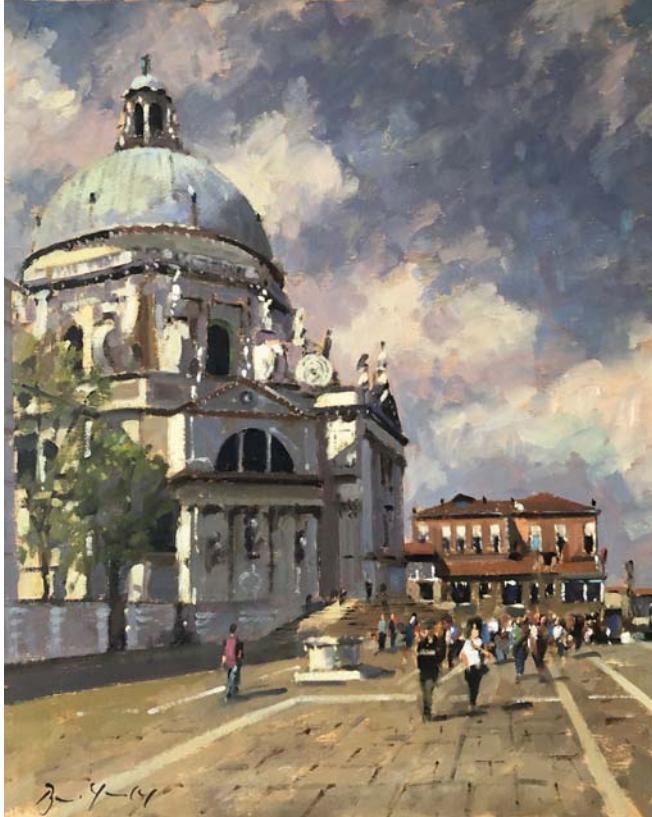
Markt, Bruges, Morning, 20 x 51, Oil on Board



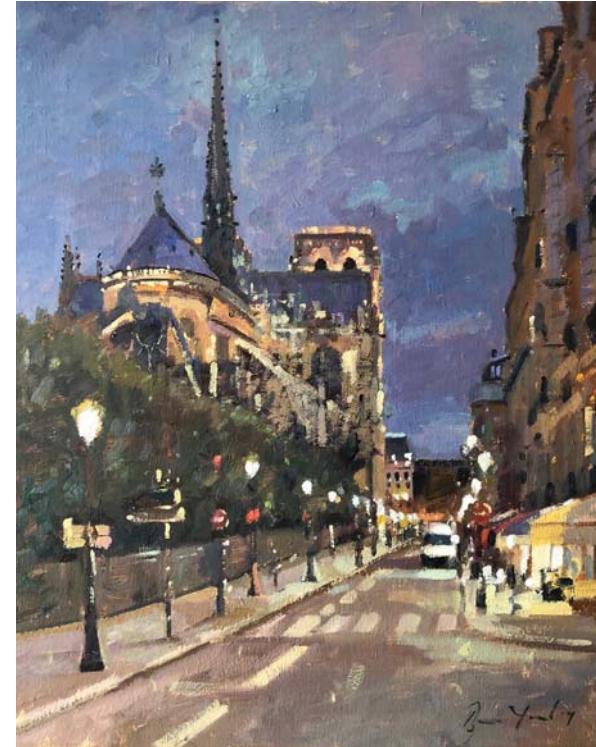
Peonies and Bath Abbey, 61 x 51, Oil on Canvas



Radcliffe Camera from the South,
25 x 20, Oil on Board



Campo della Salute, 61 x 51, Oil on Canvas



Notre-Dame at Night, 51 x 41, Oil on Canvas

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Opening times: 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat • 12.30pm - 6pm Sunday • and by appointment

Exhibition dates: 28th June – 16th July 2020