



CLIVE McCARTNEY

In the 18th century, shortly after the enlightenment was born, there was an inevitable counter-movement to the rigorous certainty of the new age of reason. This was romanticism. At its heart was the idea of the sublime, which describes the mix of exhilaration, awe and fear we feel when standing before the immensity of nature.

The concept was brought to life by the Irish philosopher Edmund Burke. He wrote: "The ideas of eternity and infinity are among the most affecting we have...The passion caused by the great and sublime in nature, when those causes operate most powerfully, is astonishment; and astonishment is that state of the soul, in which all its motions are suspended, with some degree of horror."

Burke's ideas inspired the romantic art of Wordsworth, Turner and Beethoven. The movement swept across Europe in the 19th century. And it never went away. So where, in our hyper-industrialised 21st century, can the sublime be experienced now? Painter Clive McCartney believes we don't even need to leave the city.

He writes: "Is it possible our vast cityscapes have become a new sublime? I believe the overwhelming effects of our architectural infrastructure are providing us with the same sense of awe and dread we find in nature. Artists are seeking to respond to the powerful dynamics of our age – bridges, freeways, vast populations and cities – in a new technological sublime."

Clive's thinking is perfectly reflected in the front and back images of the catalogue you are holding now. On the front is *The Lingering Twilight*, which captures the vast magnificence of the modern London skyline. On the back, painted on his most recent trip, *Blue Ice, Arctic* is a vivid recreation of the ancient polar oceans.

Of course, there are many more examples of Clive's vision of a contemporary sublime in this new show. Stand out works include *Old Delhi*, *The Oculus: World Trade Centre*, *Park Avenue: Boogie Woogie* and *Central Park, Late Sunset*. The latter is an especially gorgeous recreation of the Manhattan skyline as it recedes into infinity. In fact, this work is doubly significant as it illustrates another of Clive's great interests: how light blurs the boundaries between objects.

He says this notion began with the Impressionists: "Turner is believed to have said 'the sun is God'. For the impressionists, everything came back to light. Not just physical light but also the emotional light of the canvas. I think there is no greater tool for an artist than the ability to dissolve matter, to blur the boundaries between things and create relationships between everything."

For Clive's many fans, the above quote will not be a surprise. Clive has dedicated his artistic career to the mystery of light, travelling the world in his quest to explore its effects on the natural and the man-made environment. It's a career that began in the early 1990s after graduating from the Central School of Art and the Chelsea College of Art and then teaching at Dulwich College and Brighton University.

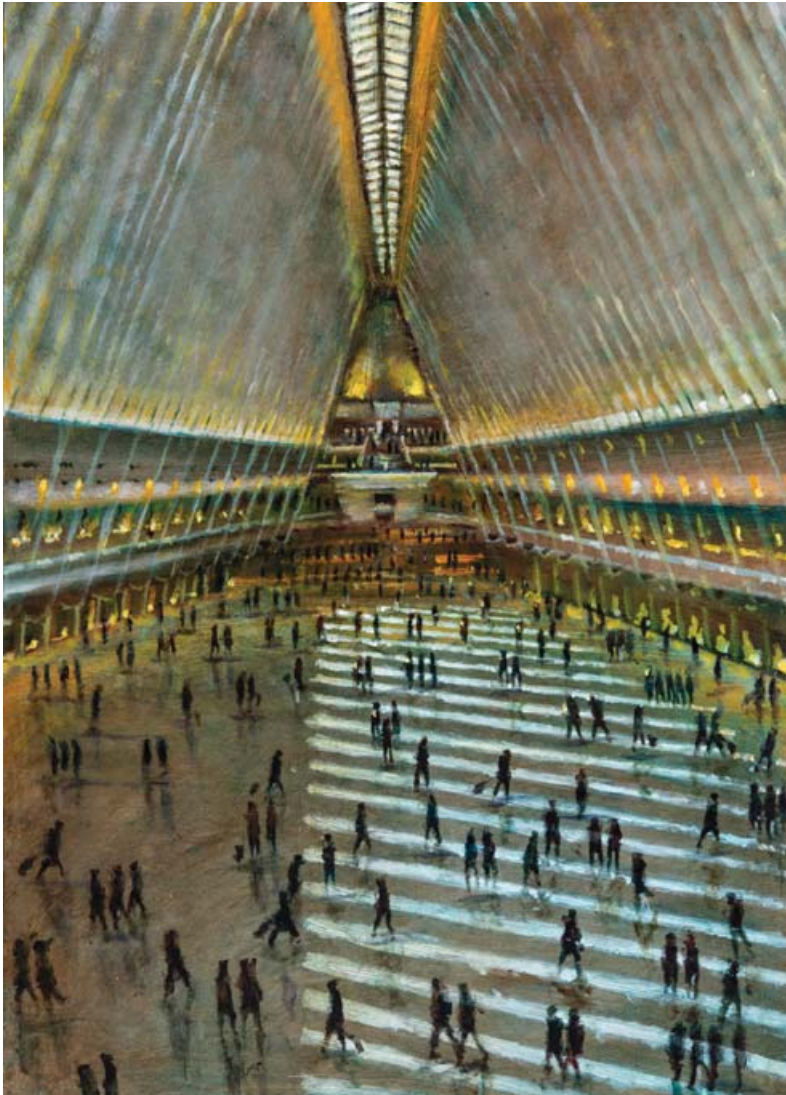
As a student, Clive even slept in his college buildings so that he could wake early to experience – and paint – the panoramic views of London as the sun rose. Decades later, he is still chasing the same encounters with the urban sublime. These new paintings are the result. Long may his obsession remain.



To see more paintings from the exhibition please visit [www.cattogallery.co.uk](http://www.cattogallery.co.uk).



Park Avenue, Boogie Woogie, 100 x 150cm, Oil on Canvas



The Oculus, World Trade Centre, 59 x 43cm, Acrylic on Board



Morning, The Guggenheim, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Grey Day, Upper East Side, 50 x 50cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Morning, East 58th Street, New York, 84 x 59cm, Acrylic on Board



Crowds over London Bridge, 100 x 100cm, Oil on Canvas



Twilight, Embankment, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



La Tour d'Argent, Paris, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Afternoon,  
Pont Neuf, Paris,  
100 x 100cm,  
Oil on Canvas





Old Delhi, 43 x 59cm, Acrylic on Board



Evening on the Jemaa el-Fnaa, Marrakesh, 43 x 59cm, Acrylic on Board



The Dohány Street Synagogue, Budapest, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Morning Swimmers, Cap d'Antibes, 30 x 42cm, Acrylic on Board



Harbour, Cassis, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Hampstead Grove, 30 x 42cm, Acrylic on Board



Hampstead Ponds, 30 x 42cm, Acrylic on Board



The Wells, Hampstead, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Grand Vista, Salcombe Harbour, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board





Port Isacc, The Flight of the Birds, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Evening in Sorrento, 43 x 59cm, Acrylic on Board



Towards St Peter's, Rome, 43 x 59cm, Acrylic on Board



Piazza Napoleone, Lucca, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



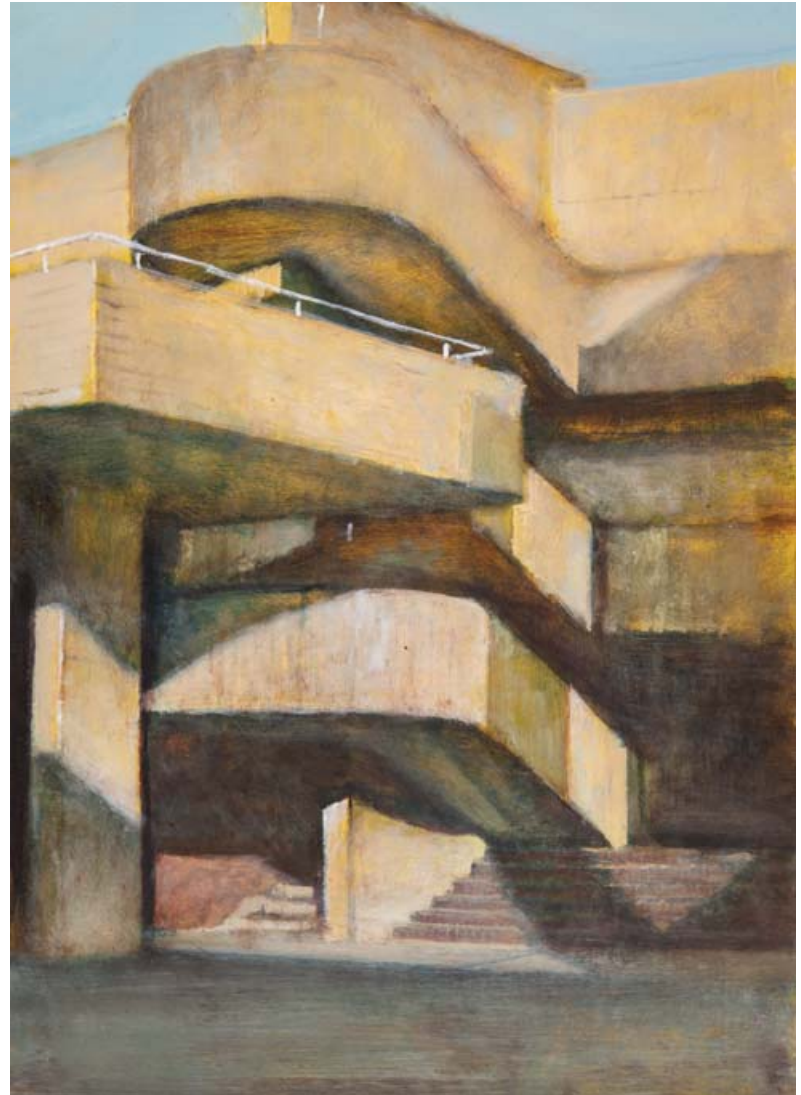
Central Park, Late Sunset, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Rhapsody in Blue, Manhattan, 100 x 150cm, Oil on Canvas



South Bank II, 43 x 30cm, Acrylic on Board



South Bank I, 43 x 30cm, Acrylic on Board



The Barbican, London, 43 x 59cm, Acrylic on Board



Bishopgate, 59 x 43cm, Acrylic on Board



Arrivals and Departures, Waterloo, 43 x 59cm, Acrylic on Board





Figures, Tate Modern, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



The Forum, Rome, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Egyptian Rooms, British Museum, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Evening at the Savoy, 43 x 59cm, Acrylic on Board



Wiltons, St James's, 30 x 43cm, Acrylic on Board



New York Café, Budapest, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Opening Night, Royal Opera House, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Giselle, Royal Opera House, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board



Soldier and Centaur, Metopes II,  
50 x 50cm, Acrylic on Board

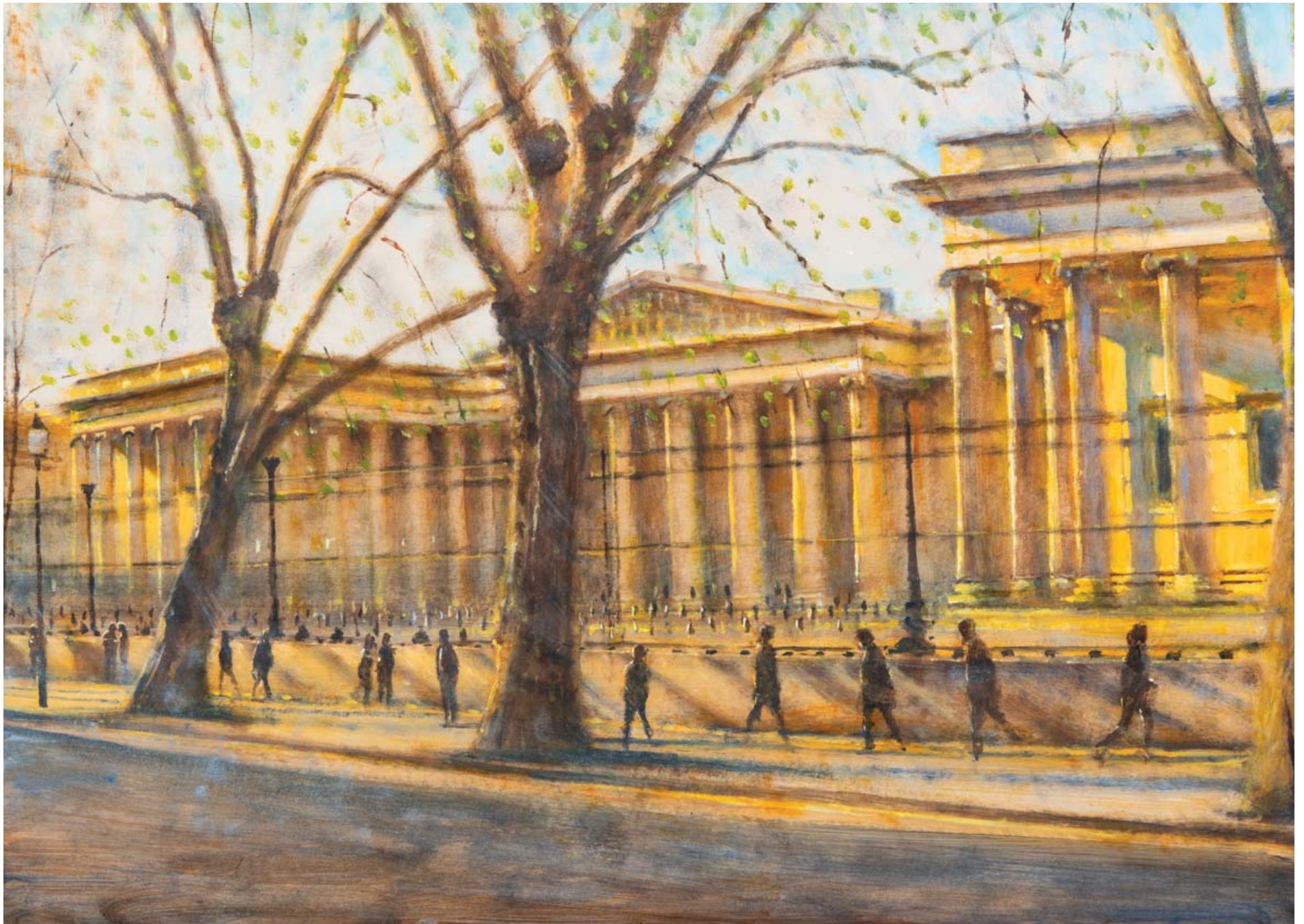


Soldier and Centaur, Metopes I,  
50 x 50cm, Acrylic on Board



Soldier and Centaur, Metopes III,  
50 x 50cm, Acrylic on Board





Morning Light, British Museum, 59 x 84cm, Acrylic on Board

Back Cover: Blue Ice, Arctic, 30 x 42cm, Acrylic on Board



# CATTO GALLERY

100 Heath Street • Hampstead • London NW3 1DP  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7435 6660 • [www.cattogallery.co.uk](http://www.cattogallery.co.uk) • [art@cattogallery.co.uk](mailto:art@cattogallery.co.uk)  
Opening times: 10am - 5.30pm Mon – Sat • 12 - 5pm Sunday • and by appointment

Exhibition dates: 3rd – 21st October 2024