



COLIN FRASER



Salsa, 41 x 55cm

# Colin Fraser - Recently

What if consciousness is the only reality? This is a question that used to be asked by religious thinkers. But recently, neuroscientists have started to ask it too. To understand it, think about a clay pot. It's just clay in the shape of a pot. The 'pot' part can't be measured. It doesn't weigh anything. So, in a sense, everything in the universe is clay. It's just stuff. It's all one thing. Only our perception makes it meaningful. Therefore, consciousness is the only reality.

Head-spinning isn't it? Yet, many people feel this 'one-ness' instinctively. Artist Colin Fraser is one of them. After many decades of dedication to his craft, Colin says he no longer differentiates between the various physical components in his compositions. "I honestly have come to feel that, in my paintings, I am actually painting the energy," he says. "The intangibles – the light, the air, the space – are much more interesting to me than the objects themselves."

Colin didn't always feel this way. But he has now reached a new phase in his career. He feels like his mastery of technique and medium (egg tempera) has given him a new freedom. It's blurred the boundary between the artist and the execution of the art. He says: "I am now at the point where ideas and images just come to me, and I accept them. Sometimes I look at the completed work and I think: how the hell did I do that? Where did that come from? But it comes from doing this for 40 years. I now think of all my paintings as part of one long singular process."

Given this, it feels a little prosaic to pick out the individual highlights of another impressive new Colin Fraser show. But this is an exhibition catalogue and we have a job to do! There are so many eye-catching works. Take *Flame*, for example. In this fantastic piece, The shadows and the lemons shimmer with the sense of light, air and space that Colin is so interested in.

The same can be said of *Last Roses* and *Train*. The flowers – picked from the garden of Colin's mother – poignantly express a sense of nature renewing itself. Meanwhile, there are his landscape paintings – all suffused with the midsummer Nordic light of the artist's Swedish home.

As ever, these works remind us that Colin is one of the world's foremost painters in egg tempera. It's a meticulous technique closely associated with early Renaissance painters in which powdered pigment is mixed with egg yolk and water, and applied little by little, layer by layer. But it's worth it. The end result is a luminosity that no other medium can match.

Colin came to egg tempera shortly after moving to Sweden in 1981. He had previously studied at Brighton Polytechnic, and taught art in Worthing. His first egg tempera show in 1990 was a major breakthrough. It kickstarted a successful career that has seen Colin's work exhibited all over the world. His first show at the Catto was in 1992, and he remains one of the gallery's most beloved artists.



Paeon, 110 x 150cm



Amsterdam, 80 x 117cm

Last Roses, 122 x 100cm





Sound, 80 x 90cm



Sway, 61 x 80cm



Train, 67 x 110cm



Azure, 63 x 98cm





Still, 84 x 122cm



Far West, 84 x 61cm



Deepshade, 55 x 79cm



Whiter, 67 x 114cm



Swedish Sky, 100 x 122cm



Bay, 100 x 122cm



Breeze, 59 x 48cm



Thirty-Three, 32 x 55cm





Glaze, 86 x 84cm



Eastern, 46 x 76cm





Flame, 63 x 98cm



Sash, 80 x 58cm

Still There, 104 x 80cm



Back Cover: Sparkle, 84 x 61cm



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Opening times: 10am - 5.30pm Mon – Sat

12 - 5pm Sunday • and by appointment

**You are welcome to attend the  
Private View with Colin Fraser on  
Thursday 15th May 5.30 – 8.00.  
Please RSVP if you would like to  
attend to [art@cattogallery.co.uk](mailto:art@cattogallery.co.uk).**

Exhibition Dates: 15th May – 5th June 2025