



DEREKBALMER@90@CATTOGALLERY



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SOLO EXHIBITION 5-26 SEPTEMBER 2024

100 Heath Street • Hampstead • London NW3 1DP • 10am - 5:30pm Mon - Sat • 12pm - 5pm Sunday and by appointment
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outer cover detail: Forest Edge, Four Seasons 2020 see page 19

I lay in a hospital bed blinded by a freak accident. I was a few months short of my fifteenth birthday. My prospects were not good. I was a war baby just five years old when the bombs fell on London and then Bristol. I remembered the red night skies and the noise and the searchlights. It was modern times. I knew no different. I went to seven or eight different schools and for a while ran free on the gentle hills of Teesdale. I failed the 11+.

But as I lay huddled in that dark hospital bed, bewildered and fearful, I was unaware that all was not lost. The headmaster of my last school, Walter Bradley, of grateful memory, was already assembling a portfolio of my school art works and in due course they were presented to the Principal of The West of England College of Art. He gave them the nod and in early January 1950, my eyesight in one eye restored and a little

confidence regained I entered a new world. A world that I still belong to. A world that changed my life for ever.

Mr Bradley's optimism and belief in me has, I hope, been rewarded in some way for I owe him so much.

And so I became an artist. And some time later a photographer. And later still an Art critic with a weekly column in the local newspaper. It is hard to believe that such good fortune fell upon me. Doors opened and I hurried through.

Photography certainly helped pay the bills. Industrial and advertising, theatre and fashion, architecture and documentary. I worked home and away and met many interesting people from all walks of life. And the art critic episode certainly sharpened one's mind and indeed led to an introduction to the Editor of the Daily Express in Fleet Street - an offer I politely declined.

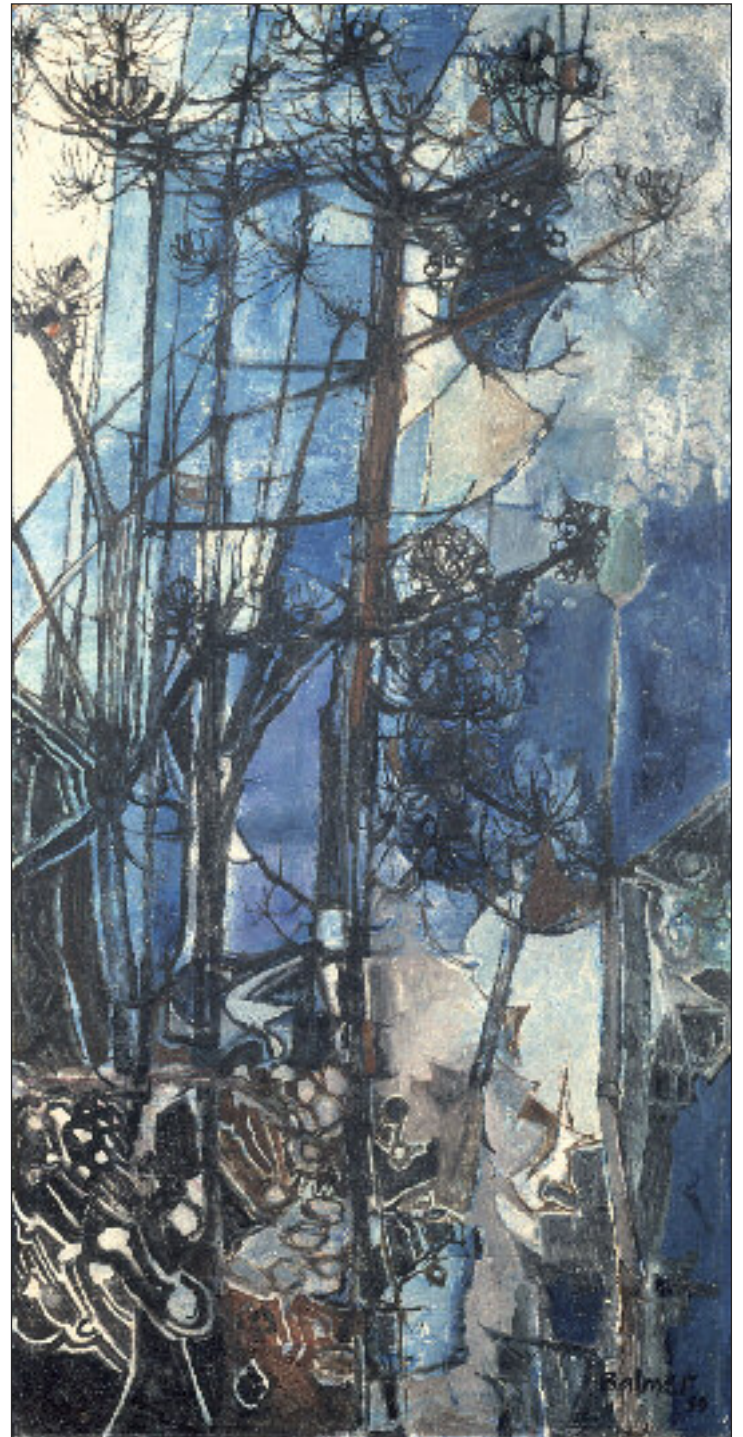
But from those early days until now it is art that has embraced me - held me in its tantalising grip. I have wandered through many galleries in the Western World, discovered the light, colour and texture of the South, exhibited far and wide and met and made friends with both the celebrated and retiring. And there is always the unexpected that gives one pleasure like the lady who got in touch with me to say that she had recently bought one of my paintings at a London Auction House and that it 'Filled her room with light and joy' What more can one ask?

I dedicate this exhibition to my darling wife Elizabeth; Eliza; Liz. who has supported and encouraged me through our long and happy marriage. And also to our children Camilla and Crispian my heartfelt thanks.

Derek Balmer, September 2024



above: Littleham, Devon 1949 aged 15 oil 53.5 x 38cm
right: Cow Parsley 1959 oil 122 x 61cm





Seeds Dispersing 1962 oil on canvas 76 x 122cm • page 5: Dragonfly in a Red Landscape 1962 oil on canvas 76 x 122cm





Yellow Trees 1969 oil on canvas 76 x 122cm • page 7: Southern Landscape; Mallorca 1987 oil on canvas 91.5 x 122cm





Secret Garden 1975 oil on canvas 71 x 61cm • page 9: Summer Snowfall 2014 oil on canvas 122 x 91.5cm





Thinking of Tetuan 2018 oil on canvas 61 x 76cm • page 11: Barcelona 2017 oil on canvas 71 x 91.5cm





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Zafra 2019 oil on canvas 91.5 x 71cm • *page 13*: Where the Blue of the Night meets the Gold of the Day 2018 oil on canvas 142 x 112cm

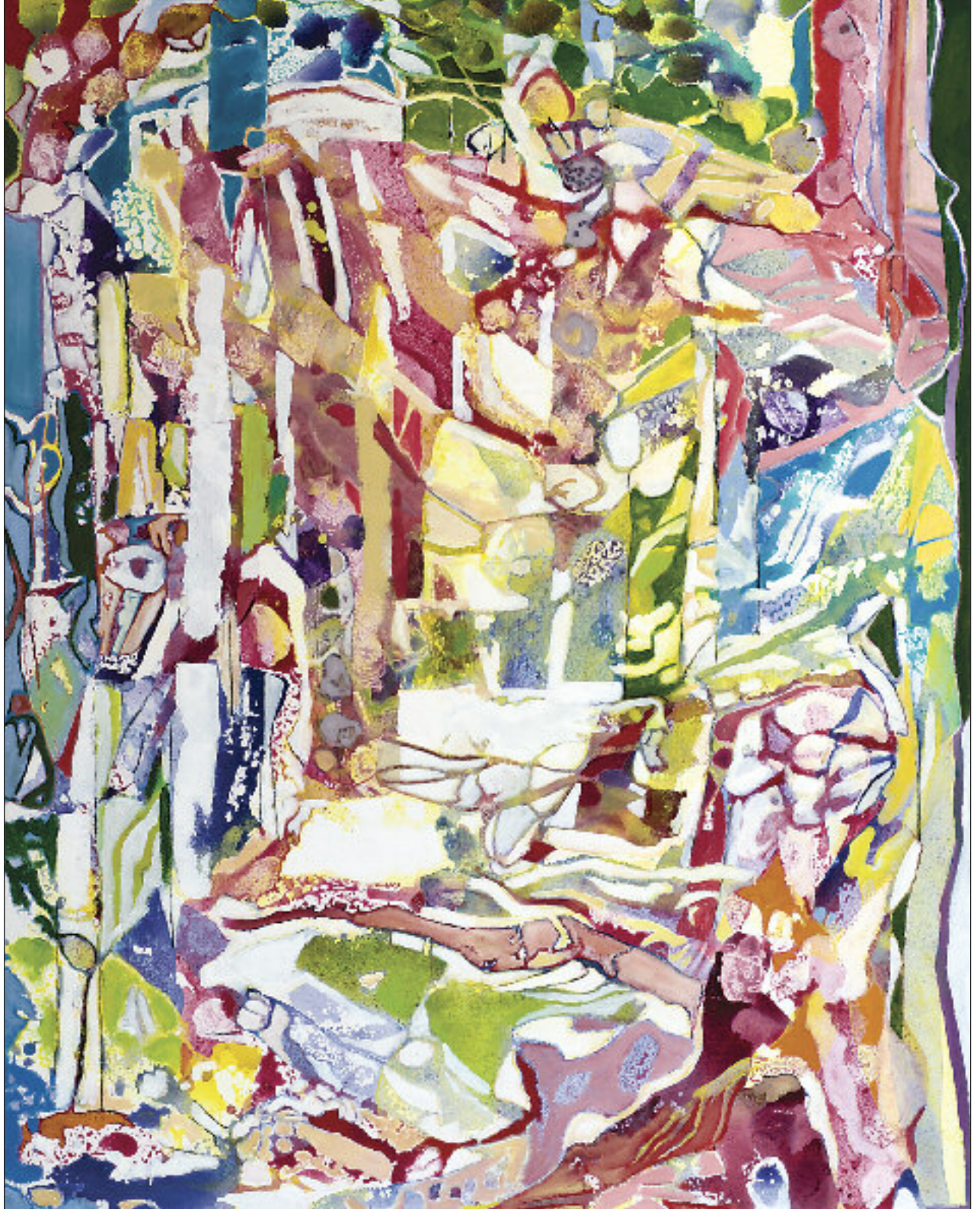




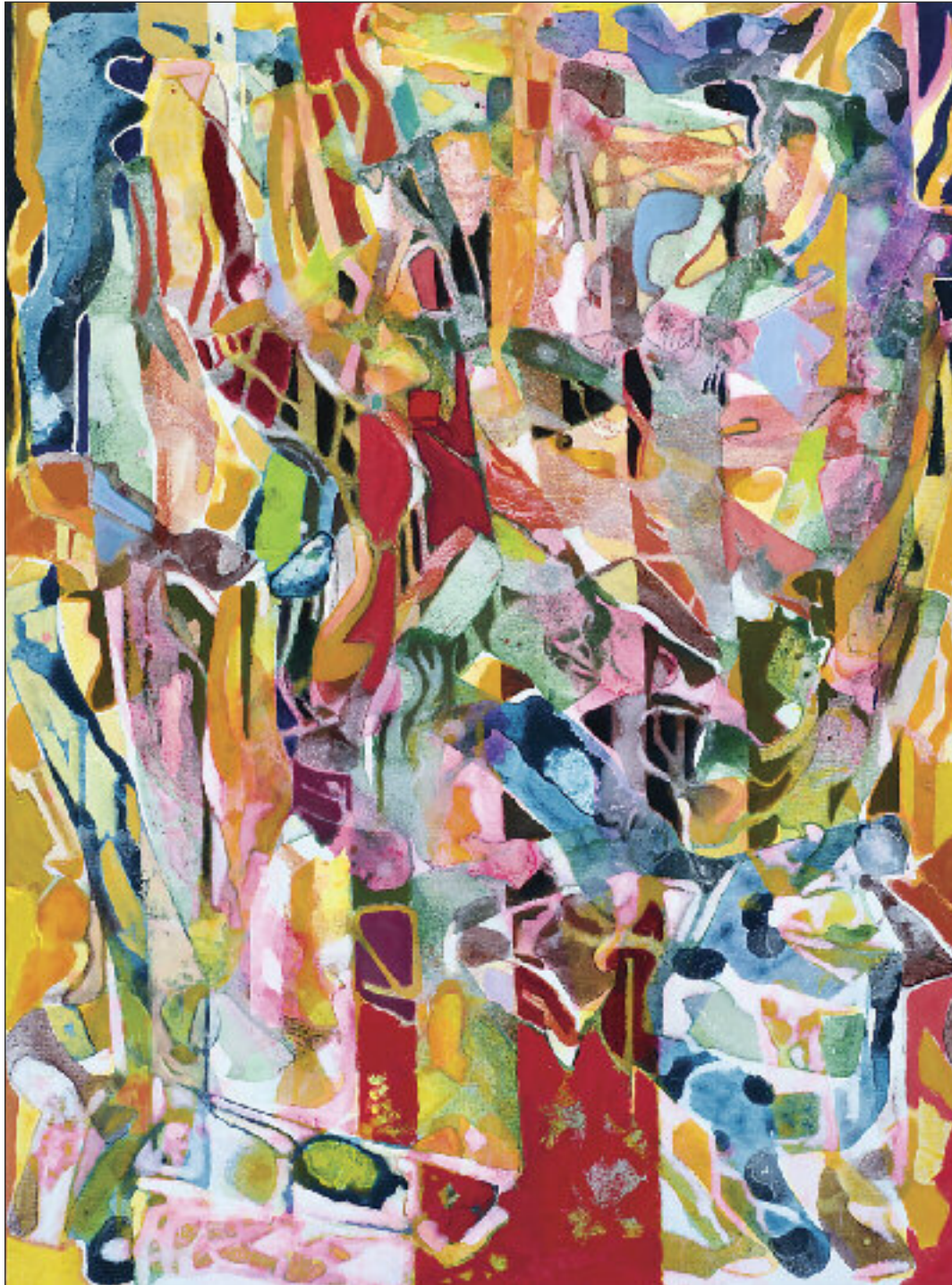
September Blue 2018 oil on canvas 71 x 91.5cm • page 15: January Blues 2018 oil on canvas 122 x 91.5cm









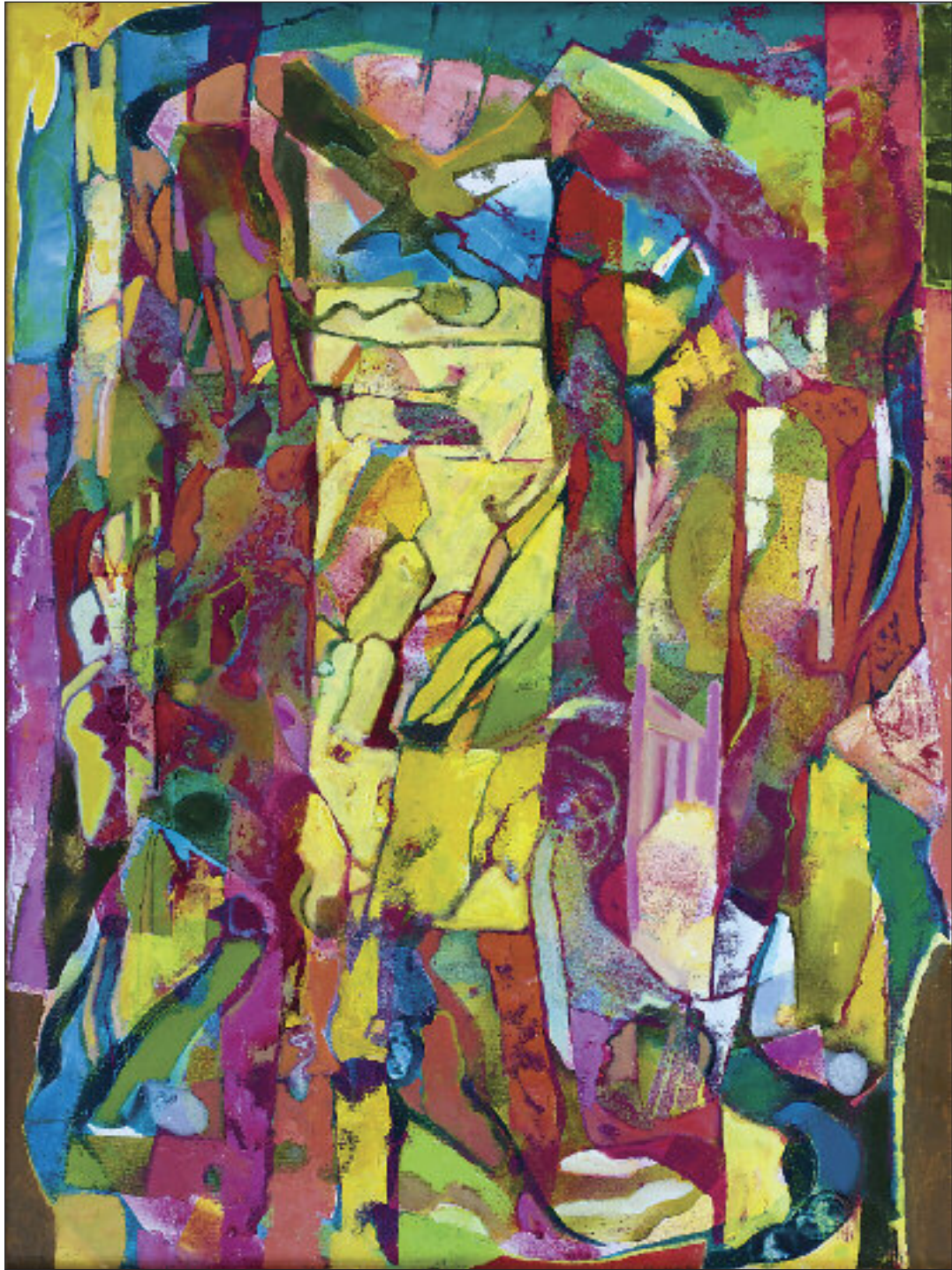


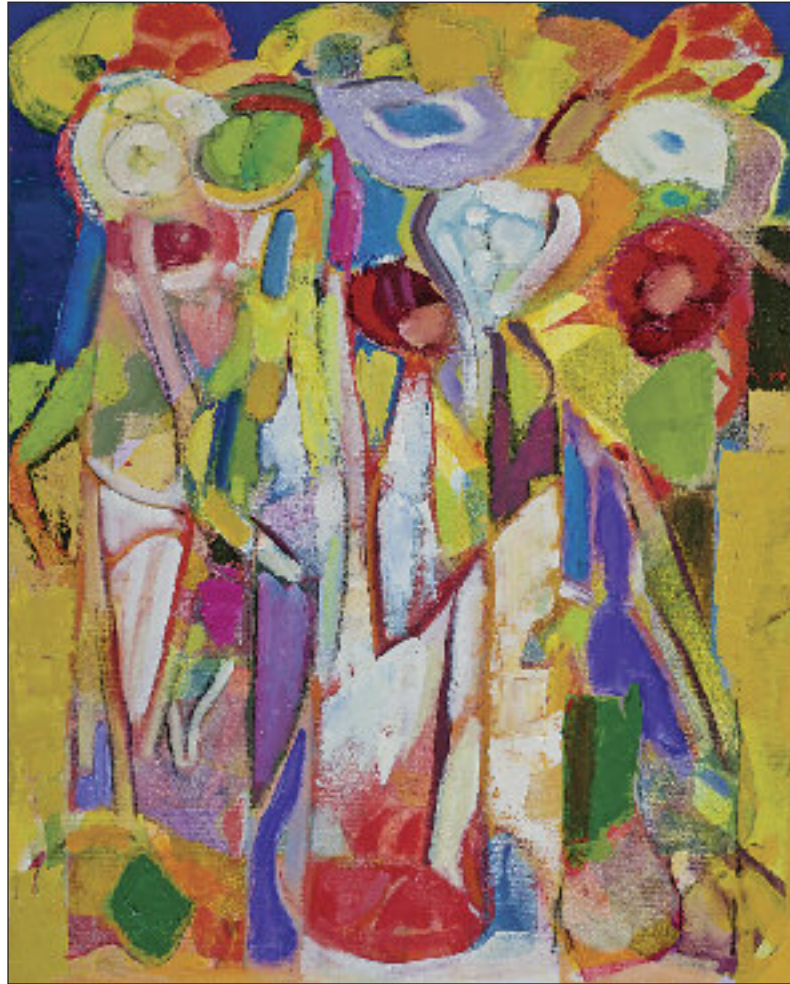


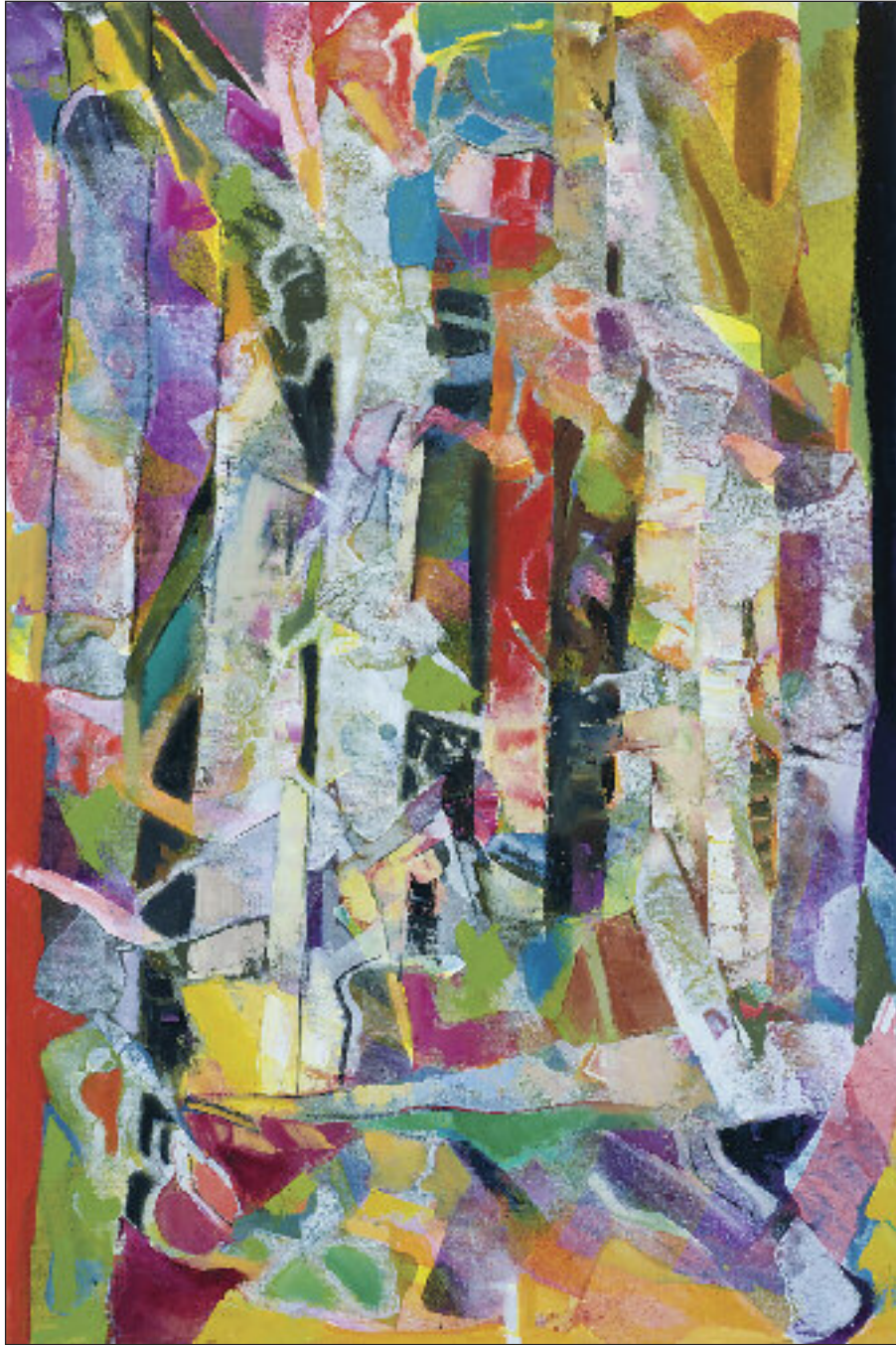
Derelict Church, Aegean 2020 oil on canvas 51 x 61cm • Coastline 2021 oil on canvas 51 x 61cm
page 21: Sinai, Desert Orchid 2021 oil on canvas 71 x 91.5cm

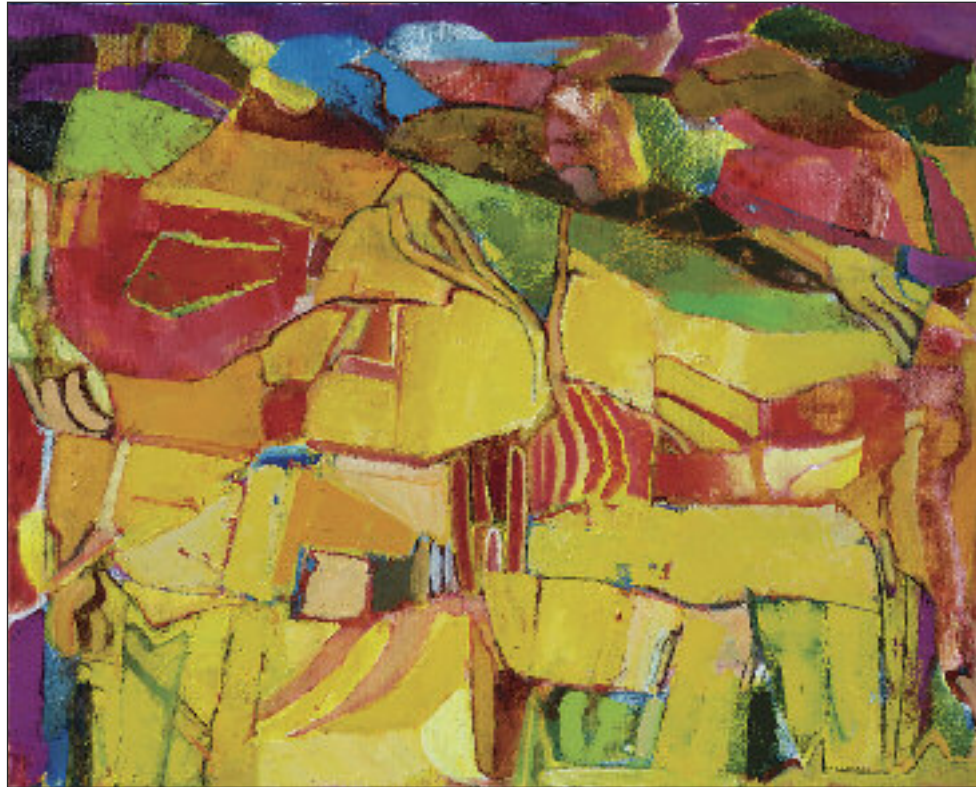
















Harvest 2023 oil on canvas 61 x 76cm

Solo exhibitions

- 1960 Fimbarrus Gallery, Bath.
1968 Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol.
1976 Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.
1980 Royal West of England Academy, Bristol.
(Sharples Gallery)
1992-94 Anthony Hepworth Fine Art, Bath.
1993-97-2004 Gisela van Beers Gallery, London.
1994-2001 Anthony Hepworth Fine Art, London.
1995 Montpelier Sandelson, London.
1996-98-2000 Smelik and Stokking Gallery,
The Hague, Holland.
2002 Smelik and Stokking Gallery,
Amsterdam, Holland.
2003 Royal West of England Academy, Bristol.
(New Gallery)
2005 Six Chapel Row, Bath.
(with Anthony Hepworth Fine Art)
2005 Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden.
2007 Royal West of England Academy, Bristol.
'Presidents Eye' major retrospective
2008 Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden.
2010 Catto Gallery, London.
2011 Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden.
2012 Catto Gallery, London.
2014 Catto Gallery, London.
2015 Bath Contemporary, Bath.
2015-16 Royal West of England Academy,
in conjunction with University of Bristol,
Theatre Collection. 28 years theatre
photography for the Bristol Old Vic Company
2016 Catto Gallery, London.
2018 Catto Gallery, London.
2021 Catto Gallery, London.
2024 Catto Gallery, London.

Group exhibitions

- 1958 Fimbarrus Gallery, Bath.
*Derek Balmer, Geoff Keeling, Brian Mace,
Neil Murison and Ernest Pascoe*
1958-63 Numerous exhibitions
throughout the UK including:
Woodstock Gallery, London;
Bear Lane Gallery, Oxford;
Laing Gallery, Newcastle;
The Victoria Art Gallery, Bath;
The City Gallery, Bristol and the
London Group.
1963 West Country Painters, Hanover.
1963-64 Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol.
Open national competition finalist
1965 Prix d'Natalie, Provence. *Winner.*
1966 Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol.
(with Geoff Keeling)
1968-70 Artists of Fame and Promise,
Leicester Galleries, London.
1982 Arnolfini Open, Bristol. *12 Artists*
1986 Beaux Arts, Bath.
1986-87 New Art Centre, London.
1993 Courtauld Institute of Art, London;
Louise Hallet Gallery, London.
1995 Glyndebourne Gallery.
2004 Six Chapel Row, Bath.
2004 Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden.
Western Approaches
2005-10 Royal Academy, London.
Summer Exhibition
2006 Cube Gallery, Bristol.
2006 Mall Galleries, London.
Discerning Eye
Invited Artist (Nicholas Usherwood)
2010 Browse and Darby, London,
Critic's choice
(Andrew Lambirth, The Spectator)
2010 Browse and Darby, London.
Summer Show

2014 Hilton Fine Art, Bath.
Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden.

2016 Bath Contemporary, Bath.
Featured painter, gallery talk.

Annually since 1956

Royal West of England Academy, Bristol.

Public and private collections

Derek Balmer is represented in collections
in the UK, Canada, USA, Holland, Germany,
France, China and Italy.



Corgi 2013 gouache 20.5 x 30.5cm Royal Collection

Further resources

Dictionary of Artists in Britain since 1945.

University of the West of England.

[http://info.uwe.ac.uk/news/uwenews/
news.aspx?id=165](http://info.uwe.ac.uk/news/uwenews/news.aspx?id=165)

Royal West of England Academy, Bristol.

<http://www.rwa.org.uk/artists/derek-balmer>

Who's Who in Art.

Who's Who.

Derek Balmer HON D ART PPRWA

President of the Royal West of England

Academy, 2001 - 2010

Hon. D'Art UWE 2002

Pro-Chancellor UWE 2003-2010

design Tony Baldaro FCSd, Bath



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