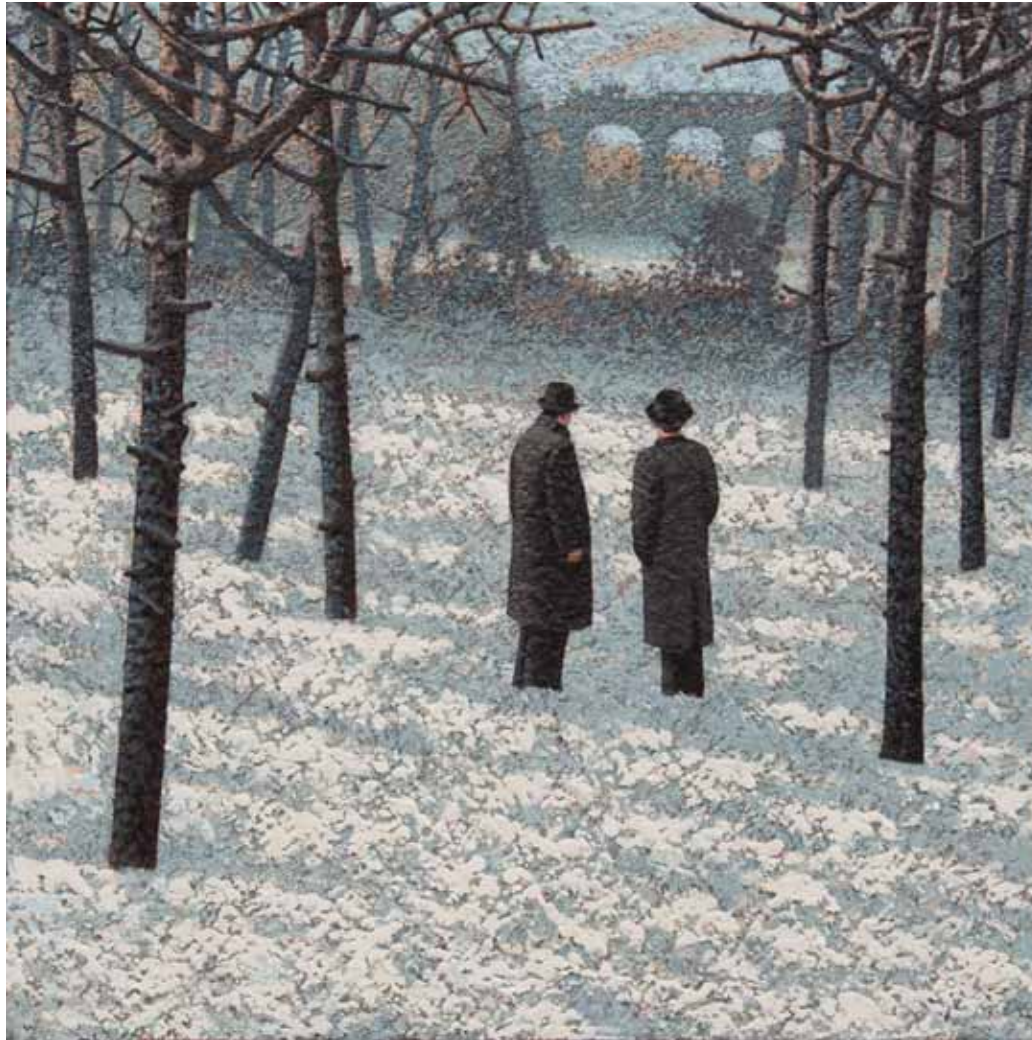


MARK EDWARDS





The Runaway Train 60 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas

Front Cover: Still Waiting for the Door to open 80 x 100cm, Acrylic on Canvas

Mark Edwards

Solo Exhibition 2018

CATTO GALLERY

100 Heath Street • Hampstead • London NW3 1DP
Tel: +44 (0)20 7435 6660 • art@cattogallery.co.uk

The obvious question to ask when looking at a Mark Edwards work is: what's going on in this painting? But after a few minutes, you realise the question you should be asking is: what the heck is going on outside it?

Of course, you'll never really find out. Mark's work is built on riddles buried inside enigmas. It's wilfully opaque. And all the more wonderful for that. The new collection is full of examples. Take *Three Men, Three Trees And a Train*. At first glance, there appears to be just two men and no discernible locomotive in this beguiling painting. Then you realise there is a third man, out of the frame and casting a shadow. There's a train too – but only in the form of an elusive puff of smoke.

Another one? How about *Still Waiting for the Door to Open*. Again, what door? There is no door. A house, yes. But no door. Just those two men: those familiar Edwards men standing in the snow in the hope that something might happen. In fact, the strange doorless house appears multiple times in the new collection. It's also in *Looking for the Shadow*, for example, where two men search for an inexplicably lost silhouette.

It's tempting to see the door-free residence as a metaphor for Mark's painting style as a whole. They are familiar and reassuring. But, hang on, there's no obvious way in!

Mark's growing legion of collectors wouldn't have it any other way. They don't want answers. They want snow, hats, coats, trees, smoke and balloons. They want crows that don't actually appear inside the frame.

In short, they want the White Wood.

This is where Mark has been living (at least in the world of his paintings) since 2007. The 'discovery' of the wood was a turning point. By this time, Mark had been a professional artist for nearly 30 years, with varying degrees of success. In 1974 he had re-located with his young family to a remote cottage in the Scottish Highlands. He continued to paint, but also worked on the neighbouring Duke of Westminster estate. By the 1980s, he had a flourishing career as a book jacket illustrator.

His 'white wood' moment came when he happened across a 1950s photo in a magazine of a man dressed in bowler hat and overcoat. He was flooded with creative ideas, and almost immediately changed the focus of his work. "My oil paintings were very traditional," he remembers. "Although I was building up a reputation amongst the shooting fraternity, I was becoming increasingly disenchanted artistically with its creative limitations."

Ten years later, the white wood is still whispering its secrets to Mark. And he's passing them on to us in his fabulous paintings. This is his fourth exhibition at the Catto. You should check it out. We have a door.



Following the Path 100 x 150cm, Acrylic on Canvas



At the Tunnel 80 x 100cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Snow, Smoke, Steam 65 x 80cm, Acrylic on Canvas

The Blue Wood (Triptych) 120 x 220cm, Acrylic on Canvas





The Fire 40 x 40cm, Acrylic on Canvas



The Passing Train 30 x 30cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Looking for the Shadow 80 x 100cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Two Brothers Talking 50 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas



The Sunday Train 40 x 40cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Waiting for the Storm 40 x 40cm, Acrylic on Canvas



The Early Arrivals 50 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas



The Red Door 50 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Three Men Three Trees and a Train 65 x 80cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Standing at the Path 65 x 80cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Meeting at the Coat 30 x 40cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Stopping to Watch 60 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Waiting at the Wall 50 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas



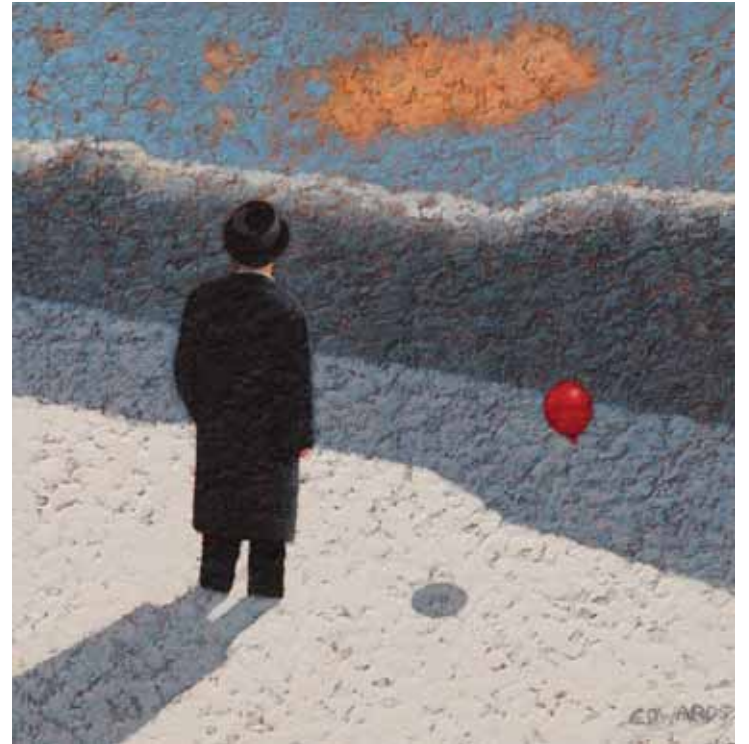
Two men sharing a Joke 80 x 80cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Walking past the Coat 80 x 80cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Finding the House 65 x 80cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Hedge, Cloud, Balloon 30 x 30cm, Acrylic on Canvas



3 Clouds, 3 Boats 40 x 40cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Walking the Dog 60 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Watching the Crows 50 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas



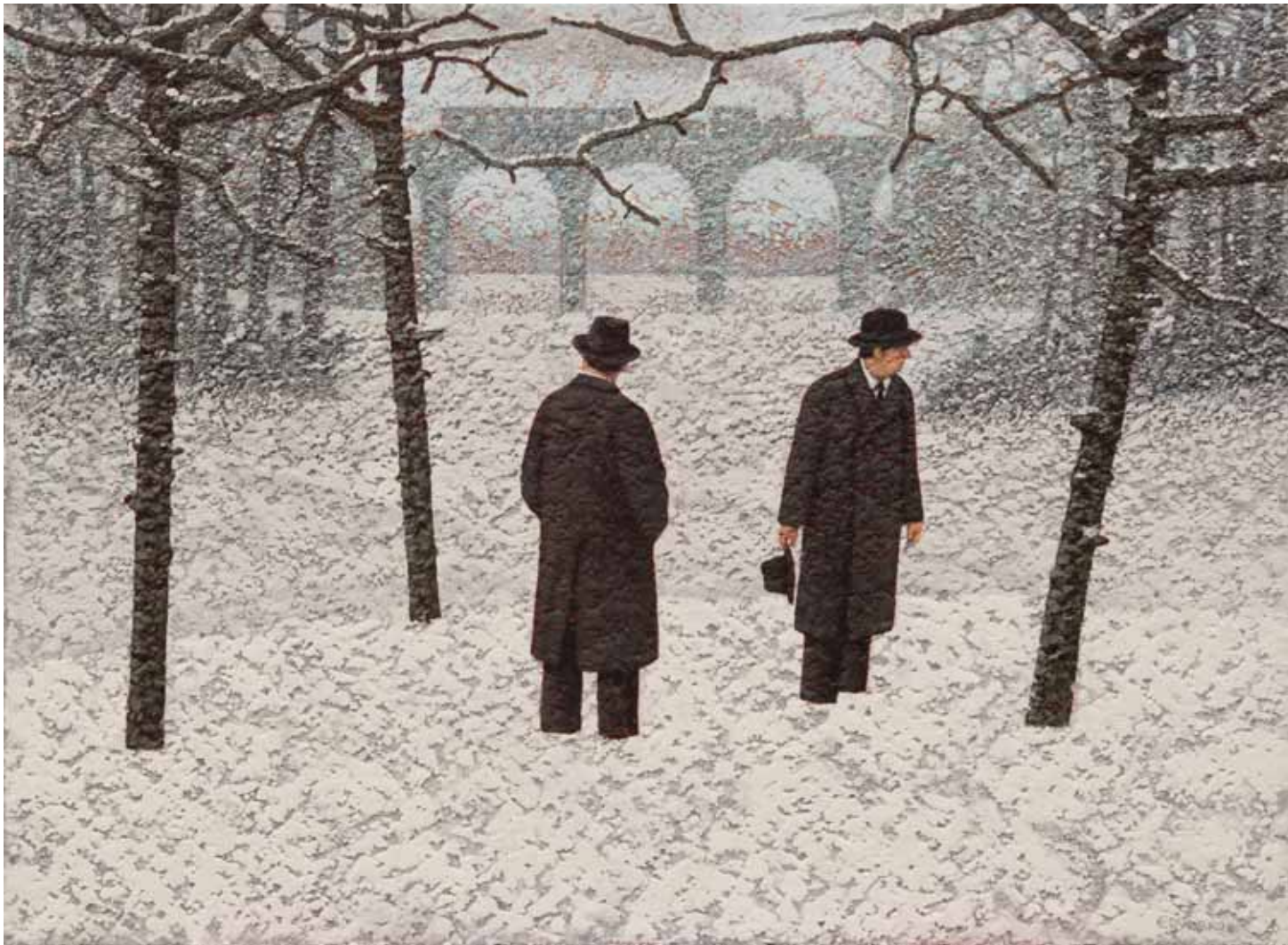
Waiting for the Train to Move 54 x 73cm, Acrylic on Canvas



The Balloon 30 x 30cm, Acrylic on Canvas



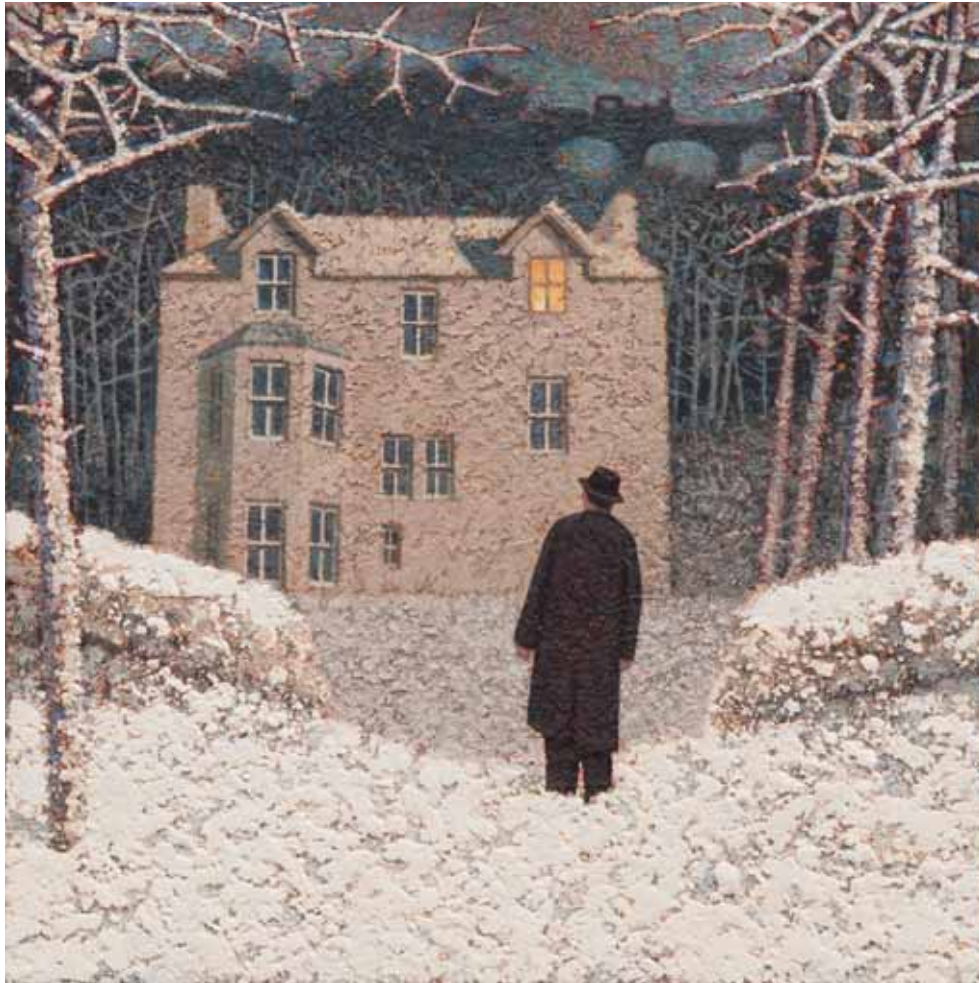
The Garden 50 x 65cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Finding the Hat 54 x 73cm, Acrylic on Canvas



Finding Three More Trees 50 x 60cm, Acrylic on Canvas



CATTO GALLERY

100 Heath Street • Hampstead • London NW3 1DP

Tel: +44 (0)20 7435 6660 • www.cattogallery.co.uk • art@cattogallery.co.uk

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

Exhibition dates: 18th October - 5th November 2018