

BRIDGET MACDONALD *A Deeper Landscape* :

Paintings and drawings around the theme of landscape and memory.

10 April – 17 May

"The way in which landscape is a palimpsest of centuries of history from farming activities to ancient battles, has interested me for some time. Landscape in general also holds our individual memories of places and experiences, and many of the works in this exhibition depict the landscape of the Malvern Hills where I live.

The painting *Easter Fire* for example, came out of seeing one of our field bonfires one cold and snowy Easter. So it was an actual thing I saw but also refers to the fires lit on Easter Eve, particularly in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox church. Similarly *Crows in the September Orchard* reminded me of the amazing orchard paintings in the Villa Livia in Rome as well as Samuel Palmer's fruit trees, but is also based on things seen in our orchard. The meanings and associations tend to develop as the works develop.

The old perry pear tree in *Perry Pear at Storr ridge* is a reminder of the old orchards of Herefordshire, many of which have been grubbed up over the last decades. We have a young orchard a few miles away planted with old local varieties of apples and pears – a scheme devised by Herefordshire County Council to conserve the heritage of this landscape. This orchard appears in *Crows in the September Orchard* and *March Pruning with the Japanese Ladder*.

The new painting *Gascony Pastoral* is a view towards the hilltop town of Lectoure in Gascony. It is such a classic pastoral vision with the ripening corn and the rolling farmed landscape that I had to paint it. The red buildings in the middle distance are probably intensive poultry sheds.

The drawing *The Midsummer Mare II* came out of a chance encounter some years ago with a beautiful grey mare in the country below the Malverns on the evening of the Summer Solstice. Other drawings include the view to the hills from the orchard and the Severn water meadows where the Battle of Worcester was fought in September 1651."



Frosted Field Maple, 2021
oil on linen, 30 x 25cm, £1,750



Gascony Pastoral, 2023
oil on linen, 40 x 50 ins/101 x 127 cm, £5,500

ART FIRST

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March Pruning with the Japanese Ladder, 2023
oil on linen, 40 x 50 ins/ 101 x 127cm, £5,500

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Perry Pear at Storridge, 2023
oil on linen, 40 x 40 ins / 102 x 102cm, £5,500

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Crows in the September Orchard , 2019
oil on linen 30 x 40 ins/ 76 x 102 cm, £5,500

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Easter Fire, 2020
oil on linen, 12 x 16 ins/ 30.5 x 40.5cm, £2,250



The Big Ash , 2023
oil on linen, 46 x 46cm, £2,500



January Moon, 2022
oil on linen, 30 x 30cm, £1,900

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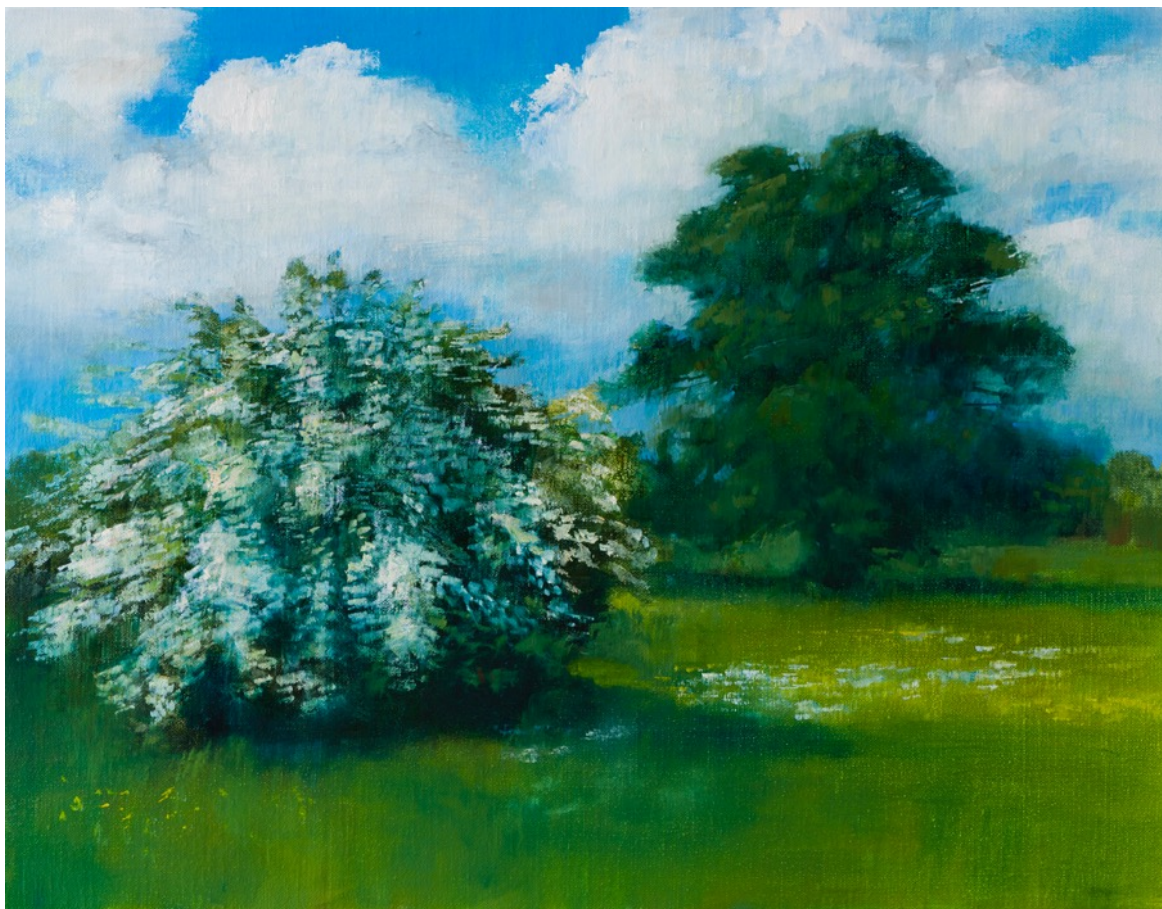
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Newtown Bird Hide, 2022
oil on linen, 30 x 30cm, £1,900



The Worcester Beacon in June, 2022
oil on linen, 30 x 30cm, £1,900



Bright Clouds of May, 2018
oil on linen, 36 x 46cm, £2,250



Herefordshire Lane (Red Earth), 2020
oil on linen, 12 x 16 ins/ 30 x 41cm, £2,250

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Spruce and Smoke, 2024
charcoal on paper approx 22 x 30 ins/ 56 x 76cm, £3,500



The Battlefield Oak , 2024
charcoal on paper approx 22 x 30 ins/ 56 x 76cm, £3,500



The Beautiful View , 2022
charcoal on paper 32 x 48 ins/ 81 x 122cm, £5,000

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Born in 1943 on the Isle of Wight, Bridget Macdonald trained in Fine Art from 1983 to 1987. Since then she has built up a career which has been marked by major solo exhibitions in public galleries such as Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Worcester City Art Gallery, Derby Art Gallery, The Rotunda Gallery at Birmingham University, and QuayArts on the Isle of Wight. Her work is held in the permanent collections of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Worcester City Art Gallery and the House of Lords at 1 Millbank.

In 2016 her exhibition *This Green Earth* at Worcester City Art Gallery featured her works hung alongside paintings, etchings and drawings by Claude Lorrain, Samuel Palmer and Peter Paul Rubens borrowed from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and Manchester Art Gallery. She has shown regularly at Art First since its inception.

The Midsummer Mare II, 2019
charcoal on paper 32 x 48 ins/ 81 x 122cm, £5,000

For further information about Bridget Macdonald, please visit the gallery website: www.artfirst.co.uk and feel free to contact Clare Cooper: clare@artfirst.co.uk