

ALEX LOWERY



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Cover:
Portland 73, 2010
41 x 91 cm oil on linen

Channel View

18 June – 10 July 2011

Alex Lowery


campden
gallery

Channel View

Aside from vague overtones of sea-side bungalows, the title refers to a connecting thread that links the three locations – West Bay and Portland in Dorset, and the island of Jersey – that feature in this exhibition. West Bay has long been a kind of obsession for me, admittedly not always an easy one to justify to people who happen to know the place, or even, perhaps, to myself. The point is, whatever its merits or otherwise as a visitor destination, those aspects which are of use in the making of a painting are not necessarily those which are self-evidently attractive. This latter quality is if anything quite at odds with a deeper beauty – I am frequently told by people who appreciate my work how unappealing, ugly even, they find the actual location. It makes for a nice paradox. I don't feel that this is because what I am doing in my work offers a less than truthful, or a sanitised view, but rather that art can somehow reveal a spirit that might otherwise be more or less obscured. It is interesting, not to say gratifying, how often those same people come to see the place in a new way as a result.

Portland embodies a similar contradiction, albeit on a different scale and with a different combination of qualities. Its paradoxes are more visibly on the surface – a more overt story of industrialisation and working of the land, along with an abundance of plant-life. Taken together these have a kind of outlandish-ness that stand in counterpoint to the exhilaration of the surrounding sea and its attendant light. In all my work I try to find the essential character of each image by a process of selection and elimination; it is amazing how the success of a painting can ultimately hinge on some small element of composition.

Jersey as a subject came about by other means: I was invited along with two painter friends, Luke Elwes and Bridget Macdonald, to visit the island and produce work for a show there in 2009. While in many ways dissimilar to the other places, the sea, in the guise of the English Channel, offered an actual and a psychological link, helping me to find a way to connect with qualities of place that could be encompassed by my style of work.

Alex Lowery, 2011

Portland 75, 2010
36 x 56 cm oil on linen



Portland 67, 2008–2010
30 x 40 cm oil on canvas



Portland 73, 2010
41 x 91cm oil on linen



Portland 81, 2011
76 x 152 cm oil on canvas



Portland 74, 2010
36 x 61 cm oil on linen



Portland 77, 2010
36 x 66 cm oil on linen



Portland 80, 2011
36 x 66 cm oil on linen



West Bay 218, 2009
30 x 59 cm oil on canvas





West Bay 234, 2010
56 x 137 cm oil on canvas

West Bay 239, 2011
36 x 42 cm oil on linen



West Bay 245, 2011
41 x 46 cm oil on linen



West Bay 246, 2011
46 x 96 cm oil on canvas



West Bay 248, 2011
36 x 66 cm oil on linen



West Bay 247, 2011
46 x 96 cm oil on canvas



Jersey 2, 2009
36 x 66 cm oil on canvas



Jersey 5, 2009
30 x 40 cm oil on canvas



Jersey 8, 2009
36 x 41 cm oil on canvas





ALEX LOWERY

Born 1957, London

Education

1976-77 Bath Academy of Art (Foundation Course)
1978-79 Sir John Cass School of Art, London
1979-82 Central School of Art, London (BA hons. Fine Art)

Selected solo exhibitions

2009 'New Landscapes', Slader's Yard, West Bay, Dorset
2007 Art First, Cork Street, London
2006 Sladers Yard Gallery, West Bay, Dorset
2006 Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden, Glos
2005 'Beyond West Bay' Sherborne House, Dorset
2004 'Landscape Paintings', Art First, Cork St, London
2002 Art First, Cork Street, London
2001 Allsop Gallery, Bridport, Dorset
2000 Art First, Cork Street, London
1997 Allsop Gallery, Bridport, Dorset
1995 Rocket Gallery, Cork Street, London
1994 County Museum, West Bay, Dorset

Selected group exhibitions

2011 'Artists for Kettle's Yard' Kettle's Yard, Cambridge
2010 'Another Country', Estorick Collection, London
2010 'A Critic's Choice', Browse & Darby, Cork St, London
2009 'L'Isle Joyeuse', Falle Fine Art, St Helier, Jersey
2009 Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Annual Exhibition, Invited Artist

2008 'Genius Loci', Galleria Ceribelli, Bergamo, Italy
2008 'New Lease of Life', Sladers Yard, Dorset
2008 University of Bournemouth, Arts Loan Scheme
2007 'Gli Amici Pittori', Galleria Ceribelli, Bergamo, Italy
2006 'Translations' transcriptions from National Gallery collection
2004 Two Person Show, Campden Gallery, Glos
2004 Group Show, touring nationally 'Elements', Fired Earth project
2004 Group Show, Russell-Coates Museum, Bournemouth
2003 'Look, stranger', Art First, London. Three Person show
2001 'Starting a Collection', Art First, Cork Street, London
2000 'Starting a Collection', Art First, Cork Street, London
1998 Gordon Hepworth at Cork Street, London
1998 Piccadilly Gallery, London
1997 Connaught Brown Gallery, London
1996/7 Kettle's Yard, Cambridge 'Remaking Reality' show
1996 Dusseldorf, Germany 'Art Multiple'
1995 Rocket Gallery, London 'Rocket Mix'

Awards/commissions

2008 Ballinglen Foundation, Eire – Residency, Co Mayo
1998 Major commission for Dorset County Hospital Phase II
1998 Arts Council – Major Financial Award

Selected literature

2011 'Artists for Kettles Yard'. Catalogue (illus colour)
2010 'Spectator', 9 June 2010. Review by Andrew Lambirth
2010 'Sunday Times', June 2010. Critical List, by Frank Whitford,
2010 'Another Country. Catalogue by Brendan Prendeville (illus colour)
2010 'A Critic's Choice'. Catalogue by Andrew Lambirth, (illus colour)
2009 'Galleries', 'L'Isle Joyeuse', by Nicholas Usherwood
2009 'The Week', June 2009. Jane Rye (illus colour)
2009 'Galleries', June 2009. Thumbnails by Nicholas Usherwood (illus colour)
2008 'Genius Loci'. Catalogue Introduction by Luke Elwes (illus colour)
2008 'Evolver' Magazine Issue 45, 'Alex Lowery' by Fiona Robinson (illus colour)
2007 'Gli Amici Pittori di Londra'. Catalogue (illus colour)
2007 'The Week', 8 December. 'Postcard Project' (illus colour)
2004 Catalogue for Russell-Coates, Bournemouth
2002 Catalogue essay, 'Fall of Light', by Ian Jeffrey
2001 'Reinventing the Landscape'. Book by Vivienne Light (illus colour)
1999 'Art Review', May. Article by Michael Lambert (illus b/w)
1996 'Modern Painters', Winter, 1995. Review by David Cohen (illus colour)
1995 'Remaking Reality'. Catalogue essay by Simon Wallis
1995 'London Magazine', Dec/Jan 1996. Article by Merlin James (illus cover and inside)
1995 'Art Review'. Painting reproduced
1995 'What's On', 4 October 1995. Review by Andrew Lambirth (illus b/w)



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