

NICOLA LUCAS

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

22 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER



Introduction

Lord Byron was the most extravagant rock-and-roll bad boy poet of the Romantic Period and was best known for his narrative poems Don Juan and Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, as well as his notorious sexual escapades and scandalous aristocratic excesses. However, he was a true English eccentric, possessing a fascinating aura which few people could resist.

Famously described as 'mad, bad, and dangerous to know' he authored a series of poems, such as the eternal She Walks in Beauty, throughout his incredibly adventurous and colourful life.

Scholars believe that She Walks in Beauty was written when Byron met Mrs. John Wilmont. She wore a black dress, for she was in mourning, and the story goes that Byron was so struck by her beauty that he went home and immediately penned his response to their brief encounter. The poem is now widely regarded as one of his finest works.

It is written in iambic tetrameter, three stanzas of six lines each, which is a poetic form mostly used for hymns, and thus associated both with simplicity, and with chasteness. In fact, the poem itself, although a type of love poem, does not really refer to passionate or sexual love.

Byron's awe at Mrs Wilmott's beauty comes across as just that: the awe that one would feel for a view of astonishing natural beauty, high upon a mountain top, and is especially restrained by Byron's standards.

"She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies."

In this her second exhibition at Private & Public Gallery the artist Nicola Lucas has undertaken a series of land and seascape paintings that depict her ongoing fascination with the natural beauty of the island of Jersey. The exhibition represents the last year's studio practice and continues her exploration of the most iconic trees that elegantly adorn our countryside and coastline. Twelve paintings, one for each parish, tell us in the most magical of ways, how the artist has developed a consistently painterly language that translates into an aesthetic love poem to nature.

Painted in her studio using water colour on board and paper, these quixotic and highly collectible images float within an ethereal white space reminiscent of the calligraphy and brush painting of the Far East in which trees, rivers, mountains and waterfalls are prominent symbols of the most romantic and devout of Taoist genres.

But the artist has not stopped there. Seeking to push forward and break new boundaries Nicola has most recently produced a series of large paintings which hover between the familiar and the abstract.

Bold in both scale and intention upon closer examination they reveal themselves as the familiar textures, rhythms and patterns of the artist's hand but on a grand and gestural scale. This new found confidence provides us with ways of understanding the technical mastery of her subject and a striking set of motifs that position her work within a line of female artists such as Hilma af Klint, Helen Frankenthaler and Georgia O'Keefe.

Nicola Lucas has once again produced one of the most aesthetically calming, meditative and seductive painting exhibitions ever shown at the gallery which, in the same way Lord Byron did in 1815, express the sheer awe and beauty that she finds in the extraordinary landscape that she has chosen to call her home.

I hope you will enjoy the experience of visiting this exhibition in the same way I have enjoyed seeing these new works emerge over the last year in the studio. That period has been filled with trials and tribulations for us all but Nicola has once again delivered a body of works that can make us all feel positive about the future and remind us of the importance of connecting with and valuing the beauty of the natural world.

Chris Clifford BA (Hons) MA – Gallery Director – Private & Public











Garden Scene

Plant Centre • Design • Landscape

Garden Scene Nursery is a plant centre situated in St Lawrence and has been trading since April 1990.

We pride ourselves in producing a large part of the plant material we offer and our extensive range of plants and trees can be viewed at www.gardenscene.je.

We are delighted to play our small part in this exhibition and to support our talented local artists.



SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



IN THE SWEET SUMMER TIME

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



WEAVE ME THROUGH A DREAM

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



SOLITUDE

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



GRACE

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



BATHED IN GOLDEN GLOW

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123X101cm

£2,200 + GST



LEAD ME DOWN TO THE OCEAN

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123X101cm

£2,200 + GST



BREATHE IN BREATHE OUT I

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

74X94cm

£1,500 + GST



BREATHE IN BREATHE OUT II

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

74x94cm

£1,500+ GST



BREATHE IN BREATHE OUT III

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

74x94cm

£1,500 + GST



SOURCE OF SOLACE

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

73x65cm

£1,800 + GST



IN TO THE MYSTIC

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



VERDANT

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



DREAMER

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021
123x101cm

£2,200 + GST



THOUGHTS OF HORIZON TREE TOPS LEADING TO THE SEA

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

94x74cm

£1,500 + GST



THOUGHTS OF SPRINGTIME RAINFALL

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

94x74cm

£1,500 + GST



HAVE NO THOUGHT OF TIME

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

74x94cm

£1,500 + GST



HYPNOTISED BY A STRANGE DELIGHT

Framed watercolour on paper, 2021

123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



FLUID

Framed acrylic on board, 2021

101x152cm

£2,500 + GST



EXPAND

Framed acrylic on board, 2021

152x101cm

£2,500 + GST



SUBMERGE

Framed acrylic on board, 2021
101x152cm

£2,500 + GST



ESCAPE

Framed acrylic on board, 2021

101x152cm

£2,500 + GST



DEEP I

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

29x49cm

£350 + GST



DEEP II

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

29x49cm

£350 + GST

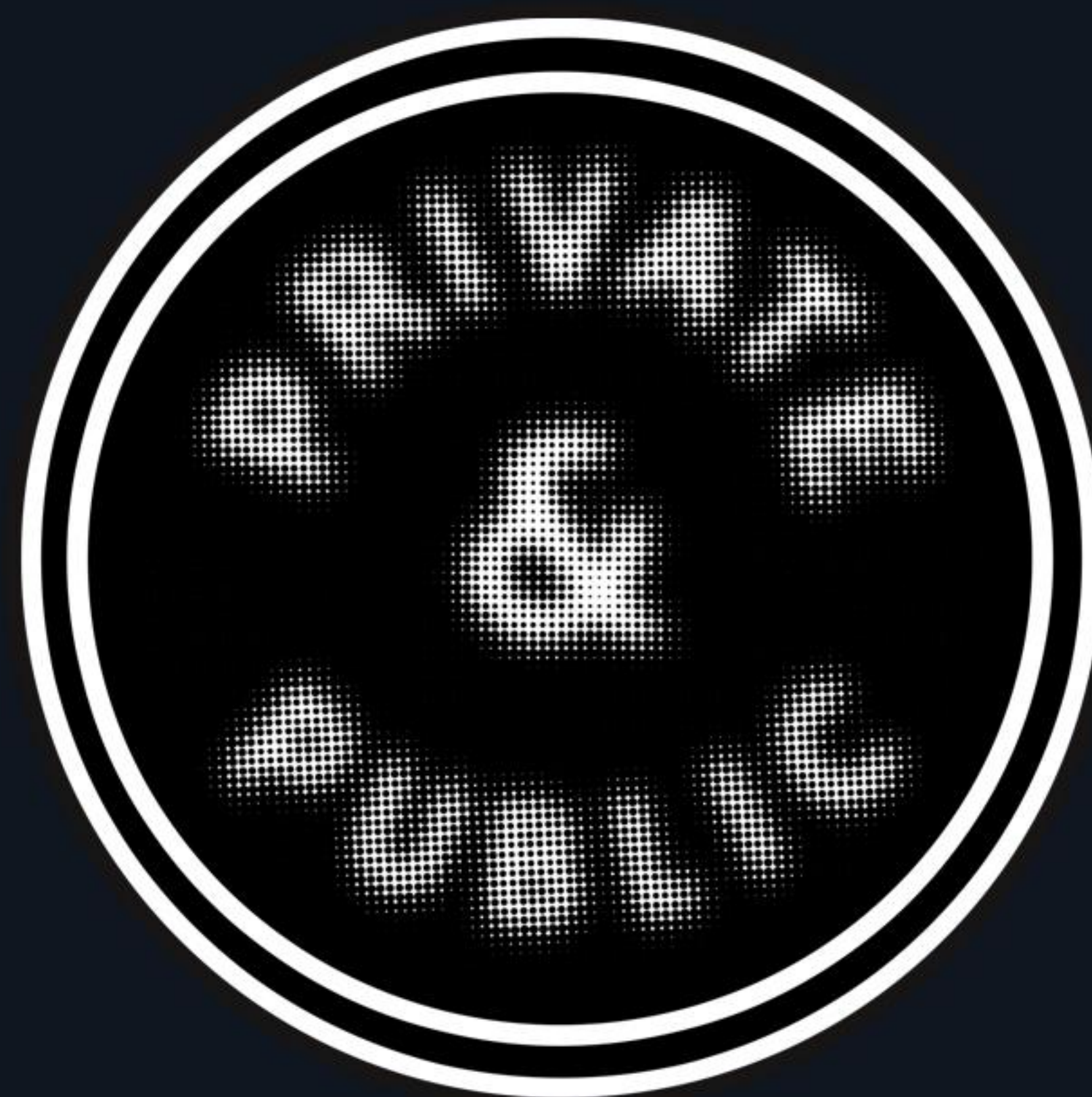




BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT

Framed watercolour
on paper, 2020
94x74cm

£1,200 + GST



PREVIEW EVENING: FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER, 5PM-8PM

EXHIBITION RUNS UNTIL 12 NOVEMBER

OPENING TIMES: WEEKDAYS 12PM-6PM

SATURDAYS: 10AM-2PM

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