

Richard Ballinger

Richard Ballinger

b.1957



Richard Ballinger
Where the Road Begins

Jenna Burlingham Gallery



ROPE HOUSE 10-12 GEORGE STREET KINGSCLERE HAMPSHIRE RG20 5NQ
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*I do not draw in the landscape, I draw from it. It's taken inside me to the studio ...
the paintings are of a place where I want to be, and that I want to be at peace with.*

Richard Ballinger, 2017

Over a lifetime, memories meld in our minds and form half-imagined landscapes to which we can return. It is in this way that a painting by Richard Ballinger might recall the woods in which he played as a boy, a long-ago walk through the rolling hills of Ireland and a more recently cherished view near his studio in Cornwall. Each time Ballinger draws on canvas, a collage of places appears in his mind to be distilled by the act of creation. 'I'm deciphering it and simplifying it,' he says. Though he may make glancing references to a newspaper clipping or personal photograph, he prefers never to plan ahead with preparatory sketches and avoids being 'influenced too much by outside visions.'

The stirring impact of the artist's style is owed to its economy of line that yields to gauzy interlocking planes of colour. Viewers of this latest body of works will note how the same, slightly abstracted language is equally effective when used by Ballinger to describe an intimate still life as a sweeping landscape. Whereas in *Still Life, Blue Fern*, broad vertical strokes may signify wallpaper, in *The Long Road Home* they become the striped contours of a rolled grass field. The stylised fronds that spread out from the stem in a vase share a formal affinity with the branches that might elsewhere articulate a distant thicket of trees.

Ballinger's palette rejects straightforward naturalism in favour of more evocative colours, and the use of tonal shifts from dark to light to let scenery slowly recede. A layered effect is sometimes achieved by Ballinger through an alternating technique of construction and deconstruction, as partially dried oils are scraped back so that an enriching undertint shows through the surface. It is through their rousing use of colour that these paintings announce their debt to early predecessors like Paul Gauguin, Milton Avery, and Bob Thompson, while also reflecting a renewed interest in invented landscapes shown by contemporaries like Peter Doig and David Hockney.

Jo Lawson-Tancred



1 The Long Road Home, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 80 × 80 cm (31½ × 31½ in)



2 The Garden to the Estuary, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 120 × 150 cm (47¼ × 59 in)



3 Floral Day, 2022-23 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 30 × 30 cm (11¾ × 11¾ in)

4 Pinks in Grey, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 30 × 30 cm (11¾ × 11¾ in)

5 Mystery Valley, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 80 × 100 cm (31½ × 39¾ in)



6 Where the Road Begins, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 60 × 60 cm (23 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 23 $\frac{3}{8}$ in)



7 Orange Tree, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 120 × 100 cm (47 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 39 $\frac{3}{8}$ in)



8 **Penwith Fields, 2023** signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 40.5 × 40.5 cm (16 × 16 in)



9 **A Winter Tale, 2022** signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 120 × 150 cm (47¼ × 59 in)



10 Interior, Still life, Mauve and Red, 2020-21 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 50 × 40 cm (19¾ × 15¾ in)



11 The West Moor, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 100 × 120 cm (39¾ × 47¼ in)



12 Still life, Blue Fern, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 50 × 40 cm (19¼ × 15¾ in)



13 Greys Before the Storm, 2021-23 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 80 × 100 cm (31½ × 39¾ in)



14 Bright Earth, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 80 × 80 cm (31½ × 31½ in)



15 Lone Star, 2022-23 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 120 × 120 cm (47¼ × 47¼ in)



16 Moon on Crimson Field, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 80 × 80 cm (31½ × 31½ in)



17 Walkabout, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 68 × 78.5 cm (26¾ × 30¾ in)



18 Titian Sky, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 90 × 75 cm (35½ × 29½ in)



19 After the Rain, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 100 × 120 cm (39½ × 47½ in)



20 Still life, Lemon Yellow, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 50 × 40 cm (19¾ × 15¾ in)



21 A Continental Thought, 2022 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 80 × 80 cm (31½ × 31½ in)



22 Classic Garden, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 120 × 50 cm (47¼ × 59 in)



23 Morning Dew, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 80 × 80 cm (31½ × 31½ in)



24 Still life, Ancient Pot, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 40.5 × 30.5 cm (16 × 12 in)

25 Greens in the Greys, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 40.5 × 30.5 cm (16 × 12 in)



26 Through the Ornate Park, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 120 × 120 cm (47¼ × 47¼ in)



27 A Trip to the Hills, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 50 × 50 cm (19¾ × 19 ¾ in)



28 Still life, Blue, Yellow, Grey, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 50 × 40 cm (19¾ × 15¾ in)



29 Autumn, Pink and Green, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 60 × 50 cm (23 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ in)



30 Blue Mountains, 2023 signed, titled and dated oil on canvas 100 × 120 cm (39 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 47 $\frac{1}{4}$ in)

Biography and Selected Exhibitions

- 1957 Born in Stroud, Gloucestershire
1974 –1978 Trained as an engineer and draughtsman, Gloucester College, Stroud
1988 –1989 Attended Stroud School of Art, Gloucestershire
1991 Commissioned by Cork University, Ireland
1993 'Paper Sculptures', Studio International, Bristol
1996 Founder Member of Co-Optic Studios, Stroud
1999 Moved to Cornwall
2000 – present Member of Newlyn Society of Artists (Vice Chair 2006-2010)
2002 'Critic's Choice' (Mel Gooding), Newlyn Art Gallery, Penzance
2003 'Critic's Choice' (Joan Bakewell), Newlyn Art Gallery, Penzance
'Exposure', Space Gallery, Penzance
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London
2004 'Platform 100', ING Bank, London
2007 'Revolver', Penzance Art Gallery, Penzance
Linerage Group Exhibition, Newlyn Art Gallery, Penzance
2010 Co-formed TAap
'Possessed Possessions', The Exchange Gallery, Penzance
2012 TAaP Installation, Glasgow School of Art
2014 TAaP Installation, Porthmeor Studio, St Ives
2019 'Richard Ballinger', Oliver Contemporary, London
2020 Group Exhibition, The Picture Room, Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall
2021 – present Regular exhibitor with Jenna Burlingham Gallery



Frontispiece: Richard Ballinger at home in Penzance

Page 35: The artist's studio

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