

Keith Purser

Light

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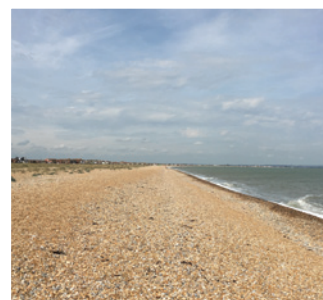
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Jenna Burlingham FINE ART

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Light

Keith Purser lives and works on the edge of a huge shingle bank in the shadow of Dungeness power station, a village called Lydd-on-Sea. His home, on the tip of a headland in south-east Kent, faces onto the wide expanse of beach and looks out to the coast of France. This is a place of light and vast skies; of open shingle dotted with the few plants that can thrive in the weather-beaten environment and the abandoned supplies of the local fishermen. With a landscape so devoid of features, Purser finds himself free to make determined studies of its textures.

Purser's paintings are rich in surface and often include objects discovered on his daily walks. Sand, driftwood, beachcombed netting, gravel, shells, sea glass and broken ceramics can be often be found. In some paintings, an impression is all that is left, with the objects inscribed into their surfaces, transferred and then removed. If one of these articles stays in the artist's mind for long enough, it becomes the spark that determines a painting, spiritually present if not physically. The irregular black shapes that feature so often are, for instance, reminiscent of the dozens of fishermen's crates that pepper the shoreline.

Purser first sketches his compositions and then retreats to his studio at his home, from where he can watch the ships passing along the Dover Strait. Working from a calm palette of lemon and chrome yellow, ultramarine, cerulean and Prussian blue, the careful use of metallic pigment captures the light that inspires the artist. With flashes of whites and reds and the sparse ivory black features, Purser recreates the light of the land, sky and sea.

The sea is calm tonight.
The tide is full, the moon lies fair
Upon the straits; on the French coast the light
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.

From Dover Beach by Matthew Arnold



1. *Distant Blue*, 2004
oil and sand on panel
58.5 x 122cm



2. *Crosswind*, 2002
oil, sand and collage on panel
63 x 122cm



3. *Sunrise*, 1992
oil, sand and collage on panel
55 x 117cm



4. *Flood*, 2015
oil and sand on panel
40 x 49.5cm



5. *The Fortunate Isles* (Pessoa), 1999
oil, sand and collage on panel
51.5 x 55.5cm



6. *Harbour*, 2009
oil and sand on panel
38 x 99cm



7. *Rain Study II*, 2014
oil and sand
26.5 x 78.5 cm



8. *Flight I*, 2014
oil and sand on panel
14 x 71cm



9. *Sunrise II*, 2015
oil and sand on panel
10.5 x 80cm



10. *GoldenWalk II*, 2015
oil and sand on panel
6.5 x 67cm



11. *Cythera*, 2014
oil and sand on panel
36.5 x 89 cm



12. *Morning Sun*, 2017
oil, sand and collage on panel
41.5 x 101.5cm



13. *Inlet*, 2016
oil and sand on panel
74 x 60.5cm



14. *Found Harbour*, 2002
oil and sand on panel
61.5 x 118cm



15. *Sea Fruit*, 2017
oil, sand and collage on panel
34 x 85.5cm



16. *East Road (Orange)*, 2007
oil and sand on panel
26 x 71.5cm



17. *Sargasso*, 2012
oil, sand and collage on panel
25 x 85cm



18. *Castaway*, 2014
oil and sand
35 x 38cm



19. *Tidal 9*, 1996
oil, sand and collage on panel
39.5 x 56.5cm



20. *Windswept II*, 2005
oil, sand and collage on panel
45 x 122cm



21. *Wave 2*, 2001
oil and sand on panel
75 x 74cm



22. *Sea Break*, 2003
oil and sand on panel
27.5 x 105cm



23. *Summer Rain*, 2012
oil, sand and collage on panel
38 x 125cm



24. *Bexhill*, 2016
oil, sand and gravel on panel
42 x 114cm



25. *Breaker*, 2004
oil and sand on panel
25 x 81cm



26. *Study for a Drowning Moon*, 2017
oil and sand
20 x 70cm



Keith Purser

- 1944 Born in Bromley, Kent.
- 1960 - 62 Attended Sidcup School of Art.
- 1963 - 71 Travelled extensively in Europe and the Middle East.
- 1978 Settled in Sussex for five years and became a member of the Rye Society of Artists.
- 1983 Moved to Trebarwith Strand, North Cornwall where his output became more directly influenced by the landscape.
- 1987 With his relocation to Lincolnshire, his subject matter remained the coastline and sea, but his compositions became more simplified, echoing the wide horizons and emptiness of the fens.
- 1994 Returned to East Sussex, renewed his interest in the coastline and the making of relief constructions, utilising objects found along the tide line.
- 1989 - 2017 Regular solo exhibitions with Jonathan Clark Fine Art.
- 1995 - present Purser has remained in East Sussex/Kent where his painting has continued exploring the relationship between the land and sea.
- 2010 - present Regular exhibitor with Jenna Burlingham Fine Art.

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