

Breon O'Casey

A Bird's Eye View

ZULEIKA GALLERY

19 OCTOBER - 18 NOVEMBER 2023

*"The origins of art are the
plumage of a bird"*

- BREON O'CASEY



Breon O'Casey: *A Bird's Eye View*

19 OCTOBER - 18 NOVEMBER 2023

ZULEIKA GALLERY, WOODSTOCK

Drawing on multiple influences from antiquity to Modernism, primitive and non-western art, O'Casey is celebrated for his creative exploration of two and three dimensional mediums and the development of a rich personal style with its unique visual language that oscillated between the figurative and the abstract. When asked about objects that captivated him, O'Casey said it was *'not the wood, not the tree, but the leaf; not the distant view, but the hedge; not the mountain, but the stone'*.

His work is founded on a series of repetitive, often geometric motifs (often arranged in rows of three, a number he found intriguing and magical – a shorthand for infinity) which he would return to

throughout his career; from simple, bold images of birds and hills reminiscent of Georges Braque and Henri Matisse, to his use of colourful triangles, spirals and polka dots in constructing landscapes rich in poetry and emotion.

It was the 1945 exhibition of Paintings of Picasso and Matisse held at the V&A Museum, London, organised by L'Association Française d'Action Artistique and The British Council, which O'Casey described as *'one of the epiphanies'* of his life.. *'God blimey', I thought... this really is it. This is the cat's whiskers alright. And that left an enormous impression on me, that show.'*



“Breon O’Casey is a man for all seasons. He thinks and feels with his hands and moves with apparent ease from two-dimensional to three-dimensional activities, from one medium to another, without losing the artistic integrity of his intent.”

- SIR PETER MURRAY
FORMER DIRECTOR
YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK





ARTWORKS



Triangles into Square II, 2001

Aquatint and linocut

Framed: 63.5 x 82.5 cm / Paper: 55.5 x 74.5 cm

Edition of 20



Red Bird, 2006

Acrylic on paper

27 x 37 cm / 10 5/8 x 14 5/8 in

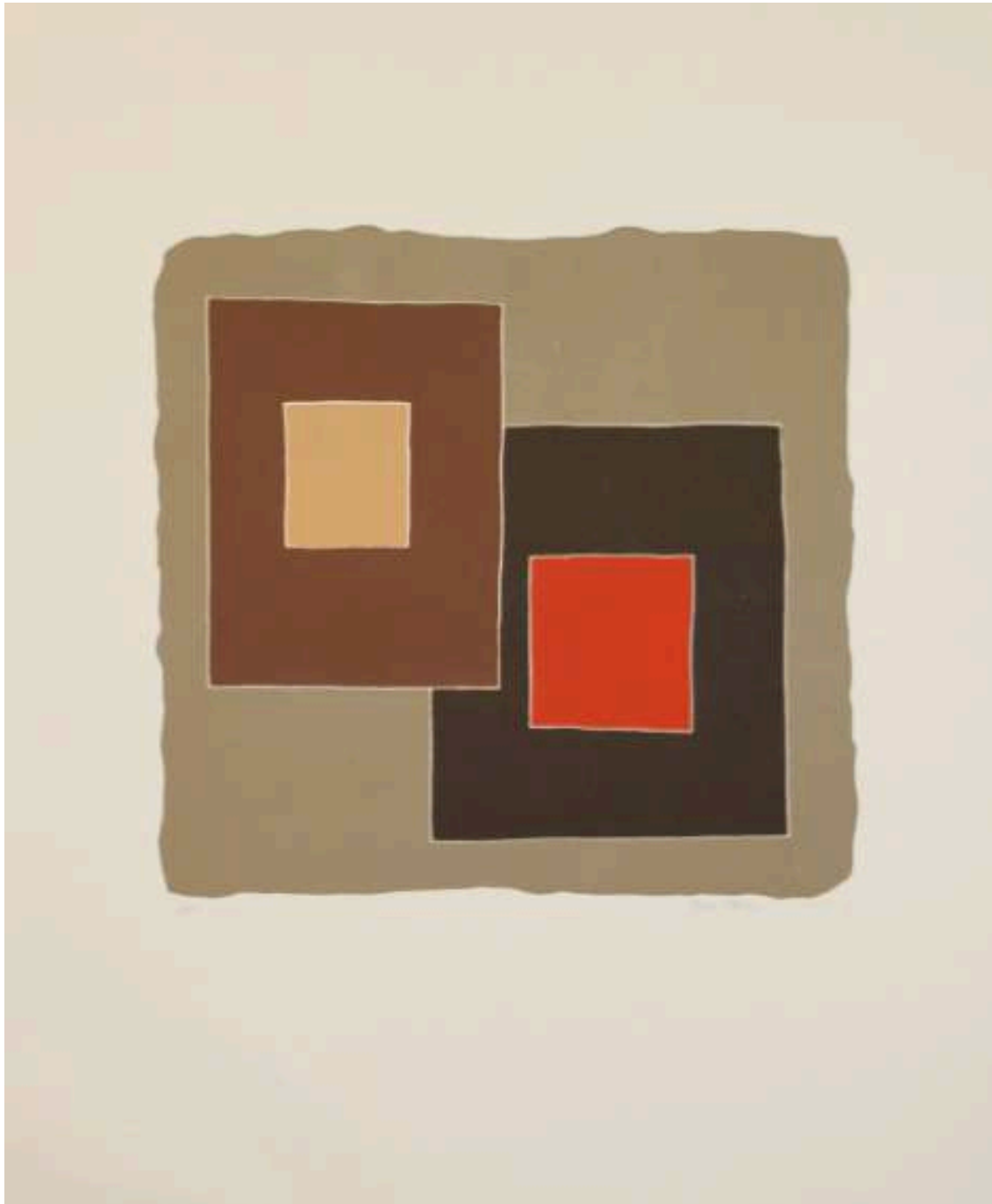


Angular Form in Grey, 2005

Linocut

Framed: 70.5 × 56 cm / Paper: 62.5 × 48 cm

Edition of 12



Squares on Square, 2003

Woodcut

Paper: 74.5 x 63.5 cm / Image: 42 x 42 cm

Edition of 15



Blue Wings, 2001

Aquatint and linocut

Framed: 68 x 84 cm / Paper: 56 x 76 cm

Edition of 20. PP



Red Hill, 2006

Acrylic on paper

27 x 37 cm / 10 5/8 x 14 5/8 in



Flower with Orange Dots, 2001

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 60.5 x 76 cm / Image: 48 x 49 cm

Edition of 20

The origins of art are the plumage of the bird.

Breon O'Casey, 1986





Leaves , 2005

Acrylic on paper

36 x 56 cm / 14 1/8 x 22 in



Two Leaves, 2009

Acrylic on board

46 x 59 cm



Untitled, 1998

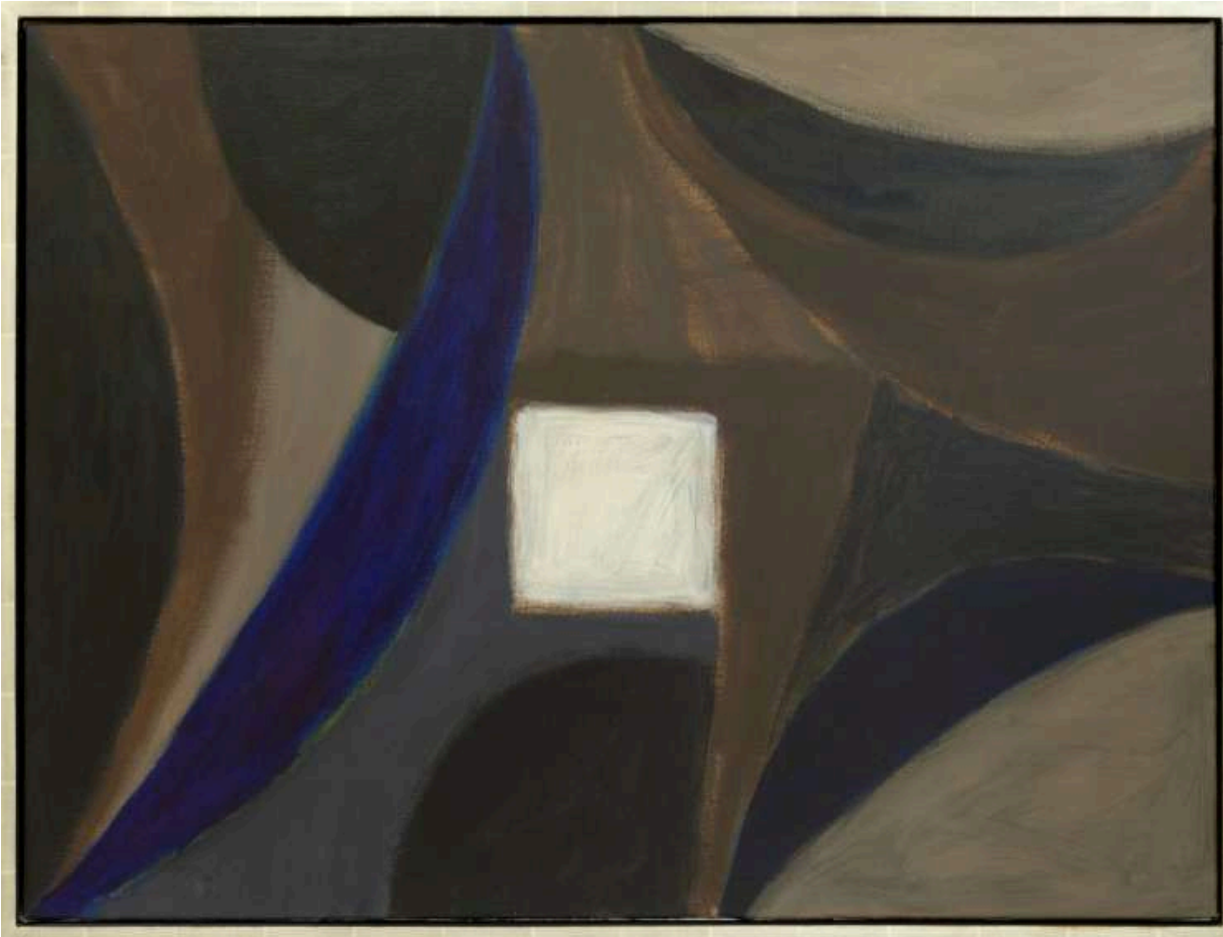
Acrylic on paper

38 x 56 cm / 15 x 22 in





The Rainforest VII 2010
Acrylic on board
48.5 x 65.5 cm



Winter Sea II, 2008

Acrylic on canvas

79.8 x 105 cm





Bump, 1999

Linocut

Paper: 52 x 49 cm / Image: 30.5 x 31 cm

Edition of 15



Landscape, 2004

Acrylic on paper

82 x 62.5 cm



Boat, 1999

Linocut

Paper: 57 x 52 cm

Edition of 15





Small Torso, 2010

Bronze

27 x 15 x 13.5 cm

Edition 6 of 9



Small Bird

Bronze

31.5 x 15.3 cm (incl. base) / 29 cm (excl. base)

Edition of 5



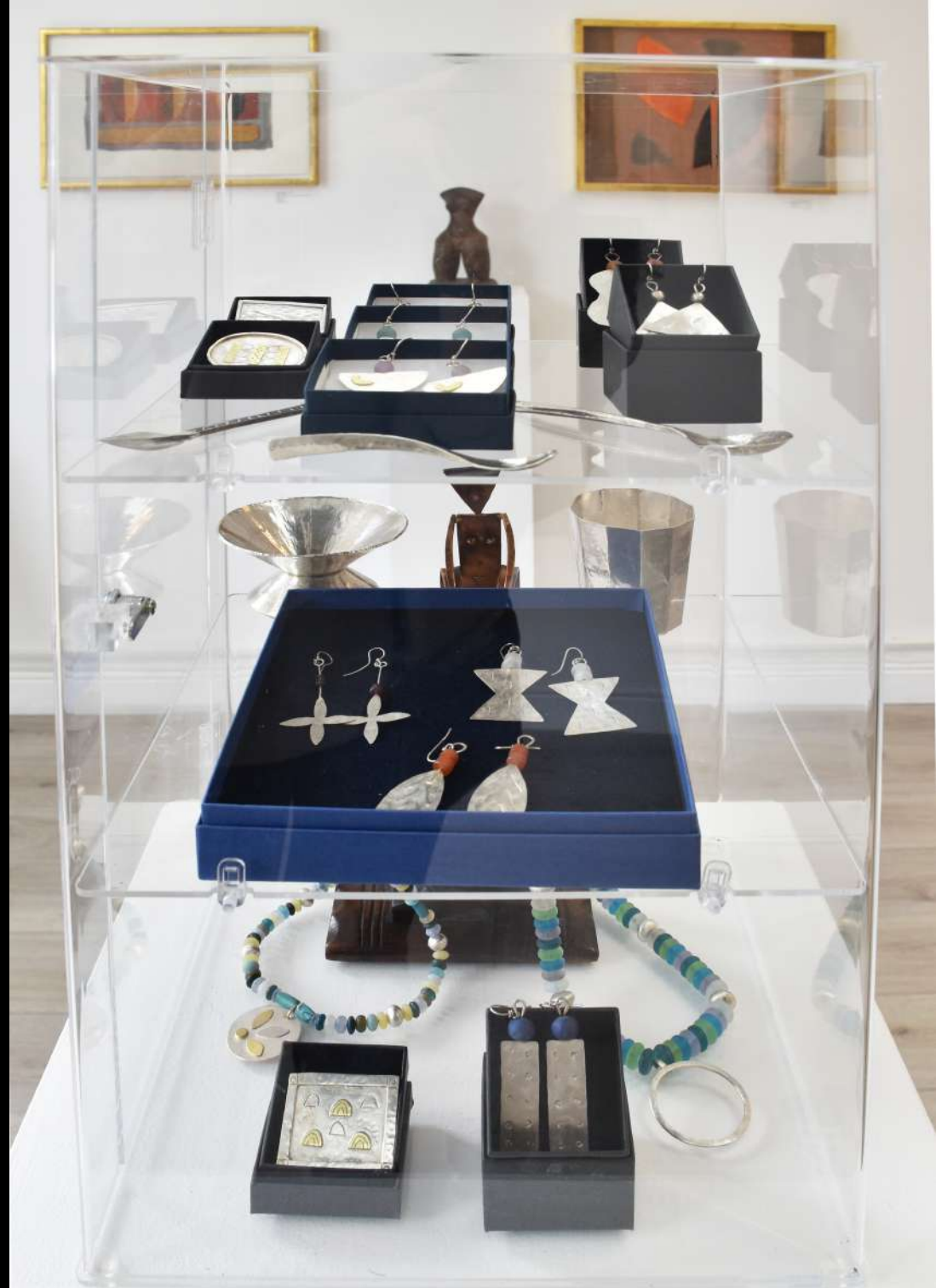
Plump Bird, 2010

Bronze

40 x 25 x 24 cm

Edition 2 of 9

JEWELLERY





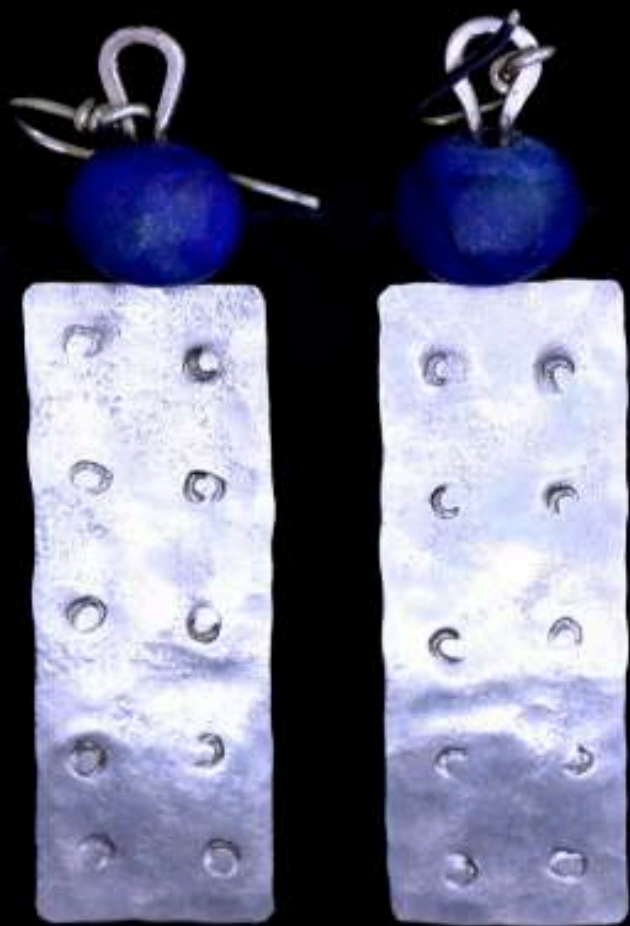
Silver Bird Brooch



Silver Brooch with 18 Carat Gold Mountains



Silver Leaf Earrings with Carnelian



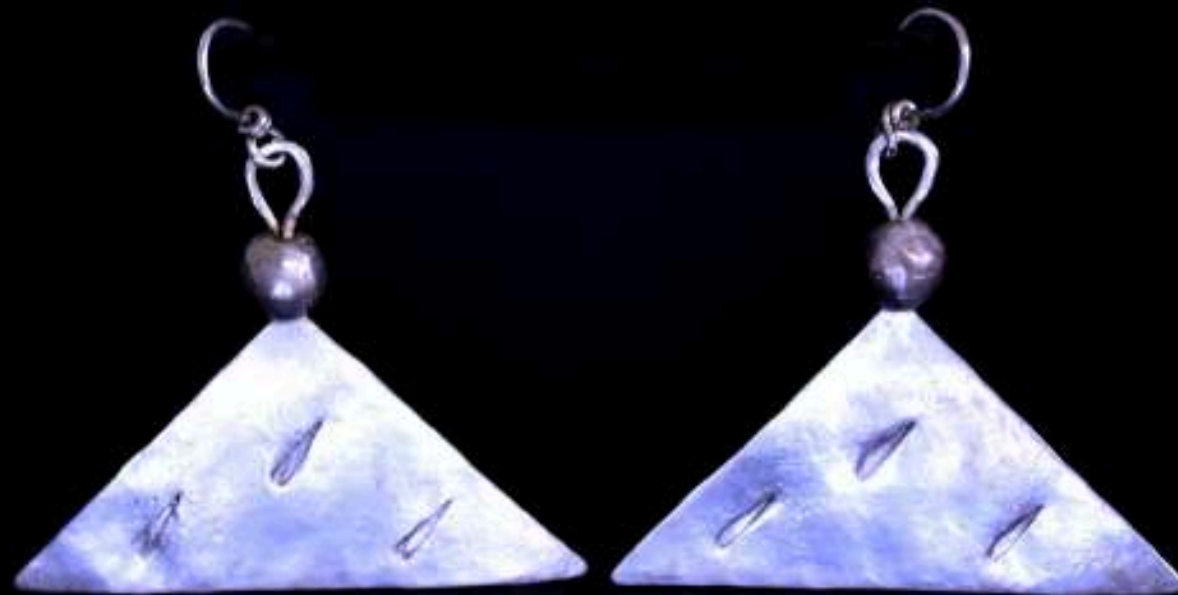
Silver Rectangle Earrings with Lapis Luzuli



Silver Abstract Shaped Earrings with Carnelian



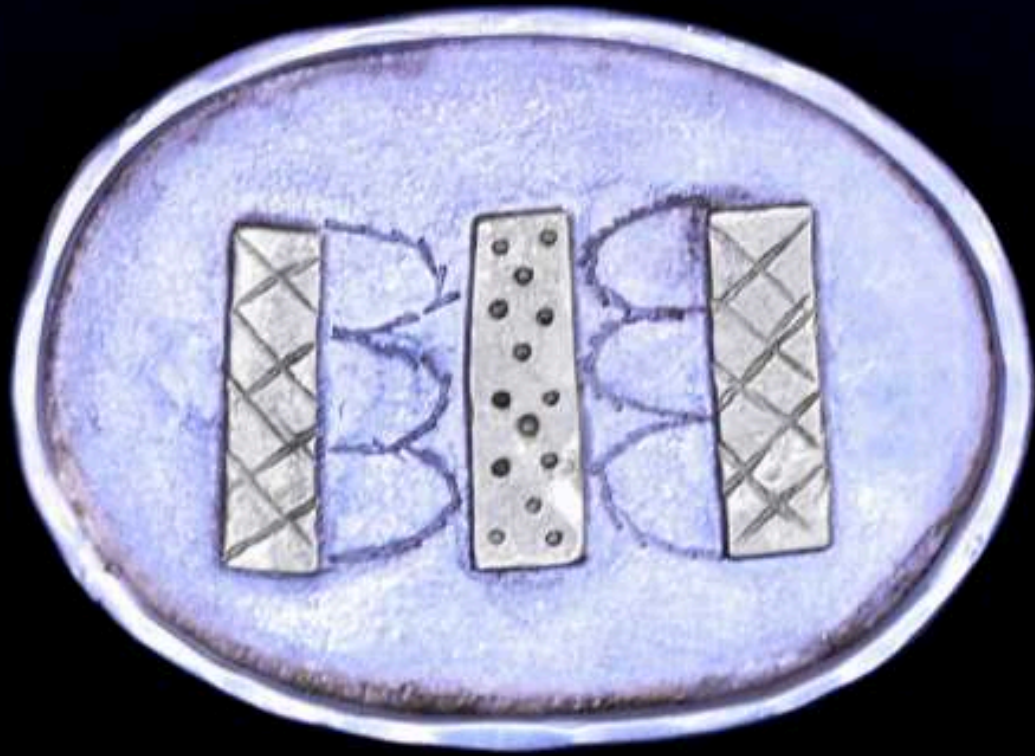
Silver Flower Earrings with Garnet



Silver Triangle Earrings



Silver Diablo Earrings With Quartz



Silver Brooch With 18 Carat Gold Trio

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Breon O'Casey

1928 - 2011

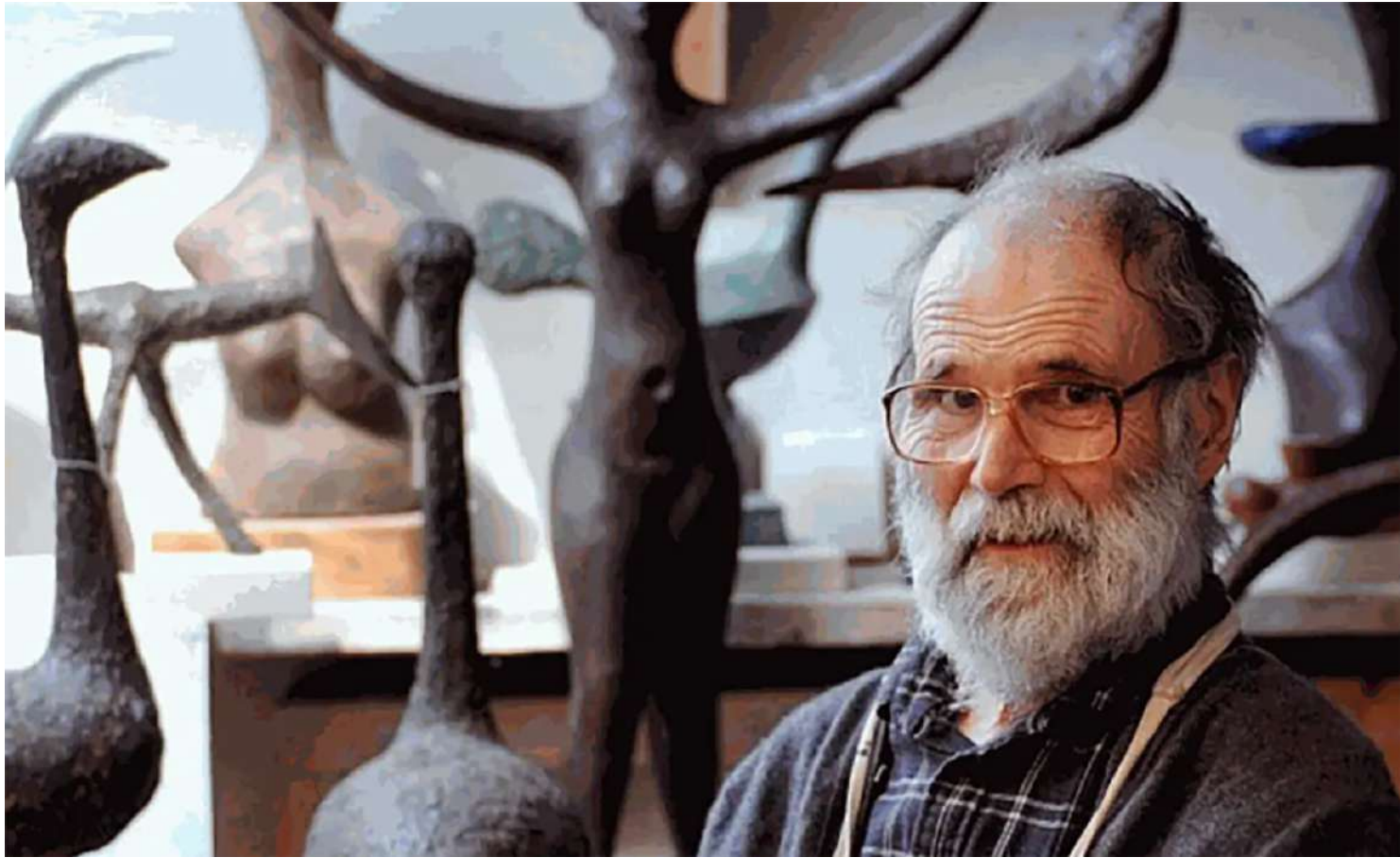
Breon O'Casey (b. London, 1928 to actor Eileen Reynolds and playwright Sean O'Casey) was a painter, sculptor and silversmith.

In 1937 the family moved to Totnes, where Breon O'Casey thrived at Dartington Hall School. After National Service he attended the Anglo-French Art Centre in St John's Wood. For years he struggled to survive as an artist.

After hearing about the painter Alfred Wallis in St Ives he was inspired to move to the artist community in Cornwall. There he had his own studio, but also worked part time as a studio assistant to Dennis Mitchell and Barbara Hepworth, and immersed himself in the vibrant arts scene of St Ives.

O'Casey was seventy years old before he was able to devote himself entirely to painting and sculpture, and his works can now be found in the permanent collections of The Hermitage Museum, Kettle's Yard, Leeds Museum and Art Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, amongst many others.

“To paint is to wait and watch, to try to listen to the picture, to chance a stroke, to hope for the best.”



ZULEIKA GALLERY

Woodstock

6 Park Street
Woodstock
Oxfordshire OX20 1SP

T: +44 (0) 1993 357 077
E: info@zuleikagallery.com

London

1-5 Cromwell Place
South Kensington
London SW7 2JE

T: +44 (0) 7719 043 763
E: camilla@zuleikagallery.com