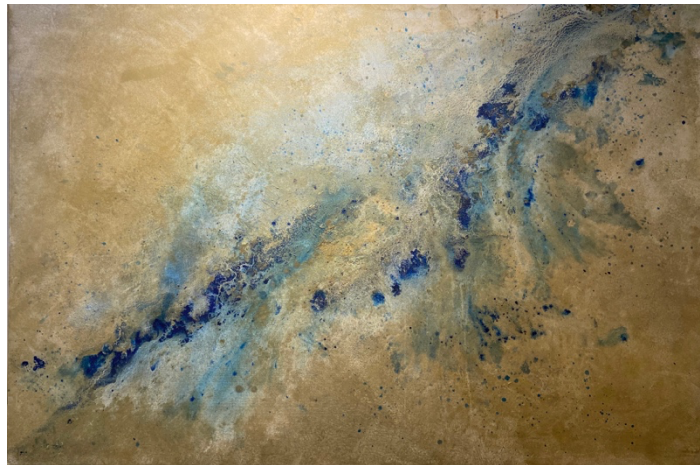


PRESS RELEASE

Rosannagh Scarlet Esson - *Alchemy*

Solo exhibition at Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock 12 April – 17 May 2021



Illustrated: Left, *Alchemy - Copper I*, 2020, Right, *After The Flood I*, 2020

Zuleika Gallery is delighted to present *Alchemy* an inaugural solo exhibition of abstract paintings by Oxford-based artist, Rosannagh Scarlet Esson. *Alchemy* brings together Rosannagh's dynamic explorations into the chemistry of paint, metals, pigment and the elements, including brand new works produced at her studio in the past year in lockdown. Presented at Zuleika Gallery in Woodstock, this exhibition celebrates the re-opening of the gallery to the public after lockdown, from 12th April 2021.

Rosannagh Scarlet Esson works primarily in large-scale mixed media paintings on canvas. Her practice is inspired by the evolving aesthetics and symbolism of the natural world, particularly through the lens of Ecological Succession. Rosannagh explores the alchemy of painting by abstracting colour and form through exposure to elemental forces. Fire, ice, rain and time demonstrate how creation and destruction combine to shape the world around us. Rosannagh's alchemical paintings explore the untameable, transformative effects of the elements, flora and fauna, pairing unconventional materials and processes to explore the duality of growth and decay.

Rosannagh's process moves fluidly between creation and destruction, expressionism and precision. Elemental forces play active roles, and marks and textures are built up organically and without preconception. Paint or pigment is layered in expressive splashes, daubs and washes, with marks either scorched, scratched or ground into the surface of the canvas, in a process as tempestuous as the raw materials used. The resulting interactions, both material and symbolic, are in themselves a transformation - a kind of alchemy.

"My painting practice comes from a deep and profound love and respect for wild, elemental places. They invoke a primal sense of freedom and belonging that forever calls me to the forest; to the mountains; to the sea. It's that untameable, indomitable quality that I find so intoxicating. The wildness of it all. Even in man-made environments, my eye is often drawn to the lichen on crumbling walls, or grasses erupting through concrete - any sign of nature punching its way through that thin veneer of civilisation. These little rebellions are far more beautiful to me than any polished surface or clean, white space." Rosannagh Scarlet Esson

ENDS

Images: Left, *Alchemy - Copper I*, 2020, Copper paint, soot, salt and rainwater on canvas, 100 x 100 cm £2,250, inc VAT. Right, *After The Flood I*, 2020 ink, acrylic and salt on flooded canvas 100 x 150 cm. £2,250, inc VAT. Images courtesy of The Artist and Zuleika Gallery.

About Rosannagh

Rosannagh Scarlett Esson graduated from Oxford Brookes in 2016 with First Class Honours in Fine Art and was awarded the Fine Art Dissertation Prize for the best critical submission in the year. Based at her studio in Oxfordshire, Rosannagh's work explores the alchemy of painting by abstracting colour and form through exposure to elemental forces. Symbolic and unconventional materials are mixed in experimental ways that work with, rather than against, the transformative effects of fire, rain, ice, time or gravity to reflect the untameable nature of the elements, and the duality of creation and destruction. Themes explored include wildness, rewilding, ecological succession and alchemical symbolism. Since graduating, Rosannagh has exhibited in the UK and Europe, and has work in several private collections across the UK.

About Zuleika Gallery

Zuleika Gallery was founded in Oxford in 2015 by Lizzie Collins and focuses on Contemporary and Modern British Art. Artists represented by the gallery include Trevor Sutton, Manijeh Yadegar, Andy Barker, Rachel Gracey, Claudia Clare and Frances Aviva Blane. Lizzie Collins is a History of Art graduate of UCL, and a postgraduate of the Courtauld Institute in London. Lizzie was a director and auctioneer at Bonhams, and a specialist at Christie's in 20th Century British Art, before founding Zuleika Gallery. In 2016 Lizzie set up the art programme for Saïd Business School, University of Oxford where she has curated exhibitions by Nigel Hall RA, Nicola Green and Alice Kettle. Hannah Payne joined Zuleika Gallery as Senior Director in 2020 following a career background of 20 years at leading institutions and art businesses including Blenheim Palace, Royal Academy of Arts, and Olympia International Art & Antiques Fairs. Hannah has directed art programmes at leading art sector businesses in London developing exhibitions with emerging and mid-career artists, as well as consulting for contemporary art galleries. Hannah is on the Advisory Board of University of the Arts London's *Made in Arts London*, a non-profit organisation supporting graduating artists.

For further information, price list, or images please contact info@zuleikagallery.com or visit www.zuleikagallery.com

In line with government guidelines, Zuleika Gallery is temporarily closed physically but remains open for business online. A virtual viewing appointment booking system is available, and our exhibitions can be viewed online. Announcements regarding re-opening from 12 April will be shared on the gallery website and social media. Our COVID-19 Policy is available to read on the website.

Normal Gallery open times:

Woodstock: Mondays (closed Tuesdays), Wednesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 11 pm – 4 pm
London: By Appointment.

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