

2 March 2022

Press Release

Flowers and Food

New works by David Williams-Bulkeley

Exhibition at Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock from 11 May – 16 June 2022



David Williams-Bulkeley *Sorrento Lemons*, oil on canvas, 14x11in.

Zuleika Gallery is delighted to announce the exhibition *Flowers and Food – New Works by David Williams-Bulkeley* which will take place from 11 May to 6 June 2022 in the Woodstock gallery. A visual feast, the exhibition is a celebration of food and art, a subject that has fascinated artists and aesthetes for generations. This is the first solo show of work by Williams-Bulkeley since his return from America to reside in the UK. The artist was based in the USA where he regularly showed with the Guild of Boston Artists.

There is a strong history in art of still-life painting. Connoisseurship and ‘taste’ underpins both the worlds of art and cooking. Williams-Bulkeley has an incredible knowledge of both areas and these are fused intimately in his work. WB acknowledges the influence of his artistic forefathers such as Manet and Nicholson. The painting *White Asparagus and Magnolia* was inspired by Adriaen Coorte’s (1697) *Still life of a bunch of white asparagus* (now in the Rijksmuseum).

While his painting is influenced by the great masters, a keen cook himself, Williams-Bulkeley attributes this influence to his Norwegian mother and Welsh father. He trawls marketplaces and delicatessens for his subjects, seeking out the best example of his produce, and painting them before they fade from their prime. Painting itself is therefore under pressure and necessarily quick as the artist has to factor in the light changes and the inevitable, that his subject will deteriorate. In French, as is well known, still life is literally ‘dead nature’ - *nature*

morte. Williams-Bulkeley's sense of urgency does not overpower his control of the brush. The food and art critic Paul Levy has praised Williams-Bulkeley's 'mastery of subtle impasto', and comments:

"His loaf of bread is so skilfully rendered that you can tell on inspection that it is sourdough; and it is immediately evident that the lemons are from Sorrento. His red chicory, like his several depictions of eggs and eggshells, balance on enigmatic reflective surfaces, lending the pictures an air of mystery."

The exhibition catalogue itself merges art with cookbook - for anyone who would like to make *Pashka* for example (a traditional Slavic dessert) you need look no further as the artist generously shares his. Please join us to celebrate this exciting exhibition which is a feast for the eyes, heart and mind.

ENDS

Venue

Zuleika Gallery
6 Park Street
Woodstock
Oxfordshire
OX20 1SP

Press Contact

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Opening Hours

Monday, Wednesday – Saturday 10 – 5
Sunday 2 - 5
Tuesday - Closed

About the Artist

Williams-Bulkeley is British artist and counts John Singer-Sargent and James McNeill Whistler among his strongest influences. Like them, he has worked in several genres - as a painter of portraits, still life and landscapes. His paintings exude a sense of luxury and are characterised by their visual harmony. Williams-Bulkeley is, with the lightest of touches, able to describe the most beautiful objects and landscapes with an exquisite sensitivity. Possessor of acute observational skills, Williams-Bulkeley sees beauty where

others might not and transforms even the mundane into highly aestheticised and beautiful objects, as can be seen in works such as *Still Life with Plastic*.

Like many of the greatest artists before him, Williams-Bulkeley is self-taught. He established his reputation in London at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, the Royal Institute of Oil Painters and the NEAC. David has recently moved back to the UK from the US. Whilst living there he exhibited work at the Guild of Boston Artists as well as on Nantucket.

About Zuleika Gallery

Founded in Oxford in 2015, Zuleika Gallery's focus is on Modern British and emerging contemporary art. Founder Lizzie Collins is a history of art graduate of UCL, and a postgraduate of the Courtauld Institute in London. She was a director and auctioneer at Bonhams, and a specialist at Christie's in 20th Century British Art, before founding Zuleika Gallery. The gallery operated in the heart of St James's from 2017- 2021 and has now taken up permanent residence in Cromwell Place, South Kensington. The Woodstock gallery opened in August 2020. The building, which dates to the early 17th Century, is next to The Oxfordshire Museum, opposite the historic Bear Hotel and a short walk from the town entrance to Blenheim Palace, home to the Blenheim Art Foundation. The gallery is committed to making art accessible and caters for both the entry level collector and the connoisseur. It also offers bespoke art advisory services for private or corporate collectors.