



GEOFF UGLOW

CHORUS : Solo Show

2 - 31 May 2022

97 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W1S 1SN

TSIVRIKOS SHAKE

GEOFF UGLOW



Geoff Uglow is one of the greatest painting talents to emerge from Glasgow School of Art in recent years. He won the prestigious Alastair Salvesen Art Scholarship for painting and travel in 2009 and used his time to journey around the coast of Scotland in the footsteps of famous eighteenth-century painter William Daniell. This body of work was then exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy.

Based in rural Cornwall, Uglow looks to nature for inspiration. Several times Uglow has diarised the passing year with painted colour notes expressing the passage of the seasons by pinning the essence of a particular day. He describes many of his paintings as "a handwritten letter; a moment, which can suspend disbelief, a fragment of vanished beauty." His work is featured in multiple key museums like the Royal Scottish Academy, Kelvingrove Museum and the Royal Glasgow Institute.

CURATORIAL ESSAY

Geoff Uglow's paintings are at once visceral and mesmeric. Layered deep into the sculptural oils is a profound sense of urgency, a physical compulsion to convey the ineludibly subjective human experience of place and of nature. His burning, vital brushstrokes exert a hypnotic effect, themselves echoing that driving impulse; densely, masterfully applied, they dance with abstraction but, ultimately, are too rooted in the world to cross the Rubicon into it.

Thematically, bestriding reality and abstraction feels appropriate. Uglow's concerns, after all, are earthly ones. They sit within one another like nesting dolls: complex, cyclical nature; what it is to be human; and the behaviour of the medium via which he accesses the emotion of experience – the paint itself and exploring the outermost possibilities of what it can do. In his work, the material is indistinguishable from the subject matter; deeply cerebral and physical, Uglow's are not polite works to be 'handled with care.' They are physical, tactile entities that must be stretched and manipulated – sometimes until the artist's fingers are raw.

Fundamental to Uglow's work is the understanding that he, as the artist, is not cast in the traditional role of observer. Conversely, he is in and of the work, the conductor amid a tempest of paint, arranging the often-bewildering cocktail of the physical, the metaphysical and the emotional into an internal cohesion. For Uglow, paint is not the expression of something understood; it is the conduit to understanding. In this, he echoes the masters of the canon, from the Venetian Cinquecento to the New York abstract expressionists. Like his forebears, he is committed to the ongoing enquiry into pure painting.

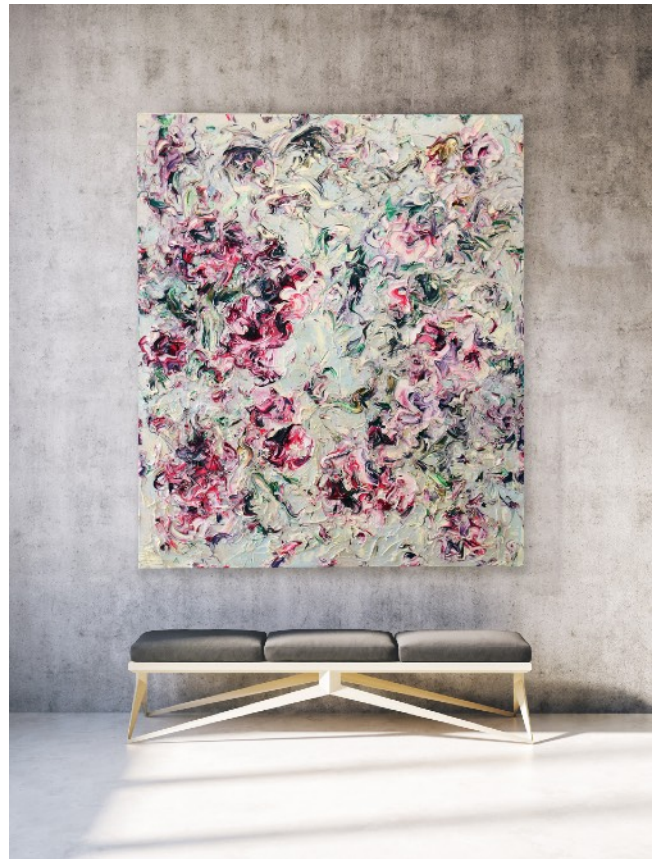
He must. After all, he paints because 'life isn't enough. It disappears. I need something I can hold.' As such, we may read Uglow's body of work as distinct from an abstract desire to make art, but one that is as primal as breathing; as imperative as sleeping, as vital as talking. These are paintings that hold memory and experience; what it is to be human in a world that tries to exert control and parameters on nature; to be destined ultimately to fail in the sight of its power.

Literal understanding of the paintings' context is immaterial; what matters is the universal components. Together artist and viewer experience the wave-like pitch and roll of the paint, at times calm, at others potent; sometimes frightening. Identifiable shapes emerge from the tumult of paint, light shimmering across the rugged canvas; canvases which focus not on representation but on the manifestation of emotion, the total experience of a place. Like a commanding sorcerer rising from the waves, the artist conducts the whole: at one moment gossamer light, and at the next wine-dark, coaxing out beauty and pattern, carving out meaning. In creating the unrepeatable, Uglow echoes nature itself.

Geoff Uglow was born in 1978 and grew up on the south-west peninsula of Cornwall. He comes from a long line of farmers, a fact that seeps, paint-like, into every brushstroke of his work. Through his father he learned respect for the heritage and conventions of the land, and what it felt like to ride bareback across fields. Through his own auspices, he learned how to live harmoniously with nature, making bows and arrows from willow; living at the sharp end of the caprices of the seasons; keeping one eye on the view outward across the Atlantic. His work is dually indebted to his upbringing and distanced from it and the very notion of being tethered to any one place. Free from such shackles, Uglow's ruminations on nature are at liberty instead to distil the sum total of his experience thus far of the land and the sea into accessible universal themes: emotion, romance, love.

Uglow studied at Falmouth and Glasgow Schools of Art and, in 2002, became a Rome scholar, living at the British School at Rome for two years. In 1998 he was awarded the Armour Painting Prize, an accolade that marked the first of many, including the Sainsbury Scholarship awarded by The British School at Rome, a Royal Scottish Academy Award and a William J Macaulay Award for outstanding work in any category RSA Annual Exhibition.

He currently works between the UK and Italy.





GEOFF UGLOW

New Dawn, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

73 x 99 cm

28 3/4 x 39 in



GEOFF UGLOW

Lavolta, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on linen.

220 x 180 cm

86 5/8 x 70 7/8 in



The Volt, Volte, Lavolta - Elizabethan court dance was the only dance which allowed the dancers to embrace closely.

A suggestive dance where the women were lifted high in the air by their male partner.



GEOFF UGLOW

Cubile Veris, 2019

Signed on verso

Oil on linen.

200 x 170 cm

78 3/4 x 66 7/8 in



GEOFF UGLOW

Alba Maxima, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

71 x 81 cm

28 x 31 7/8 in



The greatest white, the largest white, Latin.



GEOFF UGLOW

Meridian, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

120 x 150 cm

47 1/4 x 59 1/8 in





GEOFF UGLOW

Chorus , 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on linen.

240 x 200 cm

94 1/2 x 78 3/4 in



The Latin 'chorus', the group of singers and dancers who performed in ancient Greek religious festivals and theatrical performances.

The Chorus of tragedy as in Sophocles – (the highly personal and dramatically active chorus.)

The chorus as the instrument which carries forward the emotional elements and dramatic action of the play.



GEOFF UGLOW

Leimoniad, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on linen.

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in

Nymph of the Meadow, Greek.

Pastures thick with lush grass and flowers.

Personification of nature.





GEOFF UGLOW

Kristina, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

71 x 81 cm

28 x 31 7/8 in



GEOFF UGLOW

Jamain, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

61 x 71 cm

24 1/8 x 28 in





GEOFF UGLOW

Naiad, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

73 x 99 cm

28 3/4 x 39 in



GEOFF UGLOW

Rosa Ver, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

72 x 98 cm

28 3/8 x 38 5/8 in



GEOFF UGLOW

Sacha, 2012

Signed on verso

Oil on linen

200 x 170

78 3/4 x 66 7/8



GEOFF UGLOW
Messis Choro, 2022

Signed on the verso
Oil on linen.
200 x 200 cm
78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in



GEOFF UGLOW

XX 11/11/20, 2020

Signed and dated by artist on verso.

Oil on canvas.

23.5 x 35 cm

9 1/4 x 13 3/4 in



GEOFF UGLOW

Quercus Ver, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

62 x 49 cm

24 3/8 x 19 1/4 in



GEOFF UGLOW

Lapis XXX Quercus, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

62 x 52 cm

24 3/8 x 20 1/2 in





GEOFF UGLOW

Lacus Somniorum, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on linen.

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in



Lacus Somniorum (Latin somniŌrum, "Lake of Dreams") is a basaltic plain located in the north-eastern part of the Moon's near side.



GEOFF UGLOW

Pavane, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on linen.

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in



The Pavane, Pavan - A stately court processional dance where Elizabethan couples paraded around the hall lightly touching fingers. Pavane means peacock and the name of the dance derives from the sight of the trains of the women's gowns trailing across the floor like a peacock's tail. It comprised of a pattern of five steps, hence its alternative name 'Cinque pas'.



GEOFF UGLOW

Roman de La Rose, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on board.

51 x 61 cm

20 1/8 x 24 1/8 in



GEOFF UGLOW

Chaconne, 2022

Signed on the verso

Oil on linen.

180 x 210 cm

70 7/8 x 82 5/8 in

TSIVRIKOS SHAKE



Dr Dimitrios Tsivrikos
info@tsivrikosshake.com
+44 7870 163043

Christopher Thomas Shake
info@tsivrikosshake.com
+44 7472 572871

TSIVRIKOS SHAKE is a modern and contemporary art gallery with offices in New York and London. It was established in early 2020 with a mission to create transparent, egalitarian, and engaging art experiences.

The gallery is led by Christopher Shake and Dr Dimitrios Tsivrikos, two accomplished art advisors who combine their experience from the worlds of Wall Street investment banking and record sales art auctions to create a gallery that is innovating outdated art-world models to leverage the global art market and support artists, collectors and art world leaders.

TSIVRIKOS SHAKE understands and fully supports the personal journey of education, inspiration, and discovery that is part of art appreciation. It is also strongly committed to equality and diversity in the art world.

TSIVRIKOS SHAKE