

# EMILY POWELL: KALEIDOSCOPE OF HOPE

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Press Release

For more information please contact:

Florence Batchelor

[florence@portlandgallery.com](mailto:florence@portlandgallery.com)

0207 493 1888

Portland Gallery is delighted to announce our first solo exhibition of works by Emily Powell. The exhibition, entitled 'Kaleidoscope of Hope', explores all aspects of Powell's recent artistic practice including large scale floral scenes, Scottish seascapes and intimate domestic spaces. All the paintings are united through Powell's love of colour:

"I use colour to process life. Colours are a great source of comfort to me and I want to reach out through my paintings to share that with my audience."



*Tiger of Fife*

– mixed media on canvas, 100 x 120 cm

Emily's works are full of momentum, the joy of creation, and the embodiment of her emotions. As a result her works are often deeply personal, and though the subjects themselves may at first glance appear whimsical there is often a more serious undercurrent at play:

"Animals offer such raw connections to communicate my emotion. It is often easier for people to face the difficult emotions they feel when portrayed through a tiger, lion or squirrel."



*Hedgerow By The Sea, Catterline Edition*

– mixed media on canvas, 82 x 122 cm

Powell's recent trip to Catterline earlier this year was prompted by her admiration of Joan Eardley and the desire to visit her studio there and immerse herself in the same surroundings. Like Eardley before her Powell found the combination of remote isolated cottages and wild changeable weather deeply inspiring:

"My paintings of the Catterline sea and skies capture the raw emotion I felt when I was taking in the landscape... I've never seen a sky like the one above Catterline; it taught me more than I thought possible and made me realise that even if I painted it for a lifetime I would never manage to capture the full breadth and depth of its beauty...The cottages reminded me very much of tea pots with a feeling of deep calm; they were small and compact and had sheltered many from storms"



*Goodnight Joan, Thank You For Every Thing You Did For Us*

– mixed media on canvas, 100 x 100

## Artist Biography

Powell has established a wonderful community of her Instagram page where she shows snippets of both her working and professional life with her 35k+ followers. Powell is entirely honest with her work and pours her soul into each piece and is never daunted by a blank canvas. Her creative process was the basis for her book *Start Painting Now: Discover Your Artistic Potential* written in collaboration with her GP sister Sarah Moore.

The first thing you notice about Emily's work is the vibrancy of her colour palette, it is unapologetically cheerful and bold. Whether she is producing still life flower scenes, landscapes, seascapes, domestic interiors or imagined spaces, her colours leap out at the viewer and demand attention. Her mark-making, like her colours, are equally dynamic and are just as likely to be made by her fingers as they are a paint brush; for Emily painting is a physical release of emotion and is constantly creating.

We are delighted that Emily is joining our roster of artists at Portland. We see echoes of other artists in her work: her interior scenes with flattened perspective remind us of Mary Fedden, her faux-naïve animals are worthy of Gary Bunt, and of course her intense use of colour places her in the legacy of the Scottish Colourists. Emily is a rising star who has already exhibited with the Royal Society of Art and collaborated with MoMA, National Galleries of Scotland and The British Museum. In 2022 she created a mural for the doors of Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children.

- High resolution images are available on request
- Advanced viewings of artworks can be arranged on request
- The artist is available for interview
- An illustrated catalogue will support the exhibition



## About Portland Gallery

Portland Gallery was established in 1984 and are leading dealers in modern and contemporary British Art. Located in St James's, the gallery is spread over two floors and plays host to 14 exhibitions a year, principally solo presentations of represented artists and estate. The gallery is operated as an Employee Ownership Trust.

# PORTLAND GALLERY

3 BENNET STREET • LONDON SW1A 1RP  
TELEPHONE 020 7493 1888 • EMAIL [art@portlandgallery.com](mailto:art@portlandgallery.com)  
[www.portlandgallery.com](http://www.portlandgallery.com)