

LIAM HANLEY: A RETROSPECTIVE

14 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2024

Press Release

For more information please contact: Esme Dollow
esme@portlandgallery.com
0207 493 1888

We are delighted to announce Portland Gallery's first exhibition of works by Liam Hanley (1933-2019). This retrospective, displayed across the lower floor of the gallery, consists of over thirty paintings which span the length and breadth of Hanley's artistic career. Our exhibition is accompanied by a printed catalogue with an introduction by Andrew Lambirth.



Great Chishill (1988) oil on canvas, 76 x 91.5 cm

Hanley's primary subject matter of the landscape, particularly the Royston countryside, is captured with marvellous diversity. *Misty Landscape* (1987) and *Great Chishill* (1988) depict Hanley's naturalistic portrayal of the rolling hills and farmland with his characteristic soft pastel tones. Others including *Music Room* (1965), *Flute and Landscape* (c.1997) and *Winter Garden* (2004) provide a more lyrical and abstracted approach, showing early influences of music and inspiration from mid-century artists including Ben Nicholson and Victor Pasmore. Works from Hanley's geometric *Land* series are also included, depicting the freshly ploughed fields from above with hypnotic maze-like formations.

Andrew Lambirth comments: 'The landscape was always Liam Hanley's lodestar...he painted his feelings

about the visual world, and his pictures are as full of vivid emotion as they are composed of beautifully controlled paint...His best paintings are luminous and compelling, full of English sensibility and quiet resolve.'



Music Room (1965) oil, collage and pencil on board, 54.5 x 57.5 cm

The exhibition also touches upon Hanley's travels abroad as well as his maritime interests where fragments of sea, ships and harbours emerge from his paintings, likely stemming from his posting with the Royal Marines between 1951-53.



Land - Black and Red (2013)

Portland Gallery exclusively represents the estate of Liam Hanley. All works from the exhibition will be available to view online and are available to purchase prior to the opening of the exhibition.

PORTLAND GALLERY

3 BENNET STREET • LONDON SW1A 1RP
TELEPHONE 020 7493 1888 • EMAIL art@portlandgallery.com
www.portlandgallery.com

Artist Biography

Liam Hanley (1933-2019) was a self-taught artist, best known for his landscape paintings of the English countryside. Born in Kensington in 1933, Hanley was surrounded by creative individuals: his father, James Hanley and godfather, John Cowper Powys were novelists and his mother Dorothy, an artist and writer. Hanley claimed his mother taught him the importance of looking. After moving to Montgomeryshire, Hanley went on to study at Wrekin College, Shropshire in 1946. Between 1951-53 he joined the Royal Marines serving in Malta, Libya and Egypt.

After military service, Hanley began a career in journalism working at ITN from 1962 until his retirement, when he became a full-time artist. Throughout his time at ITN, Hanley always showed interest in art, travelling regularly to paint while taking evening classes at the Central School of Art. His focus was mainly on the Welsh countryside until his parents' move in 1963, when he then discovered the small rural landscape of Royston in Hertfordshire.

Hanley was regularly selected for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions as well showing works at the Royal Society of Arts, Beardsmore Gallery and Crane Kalman Gallery, London. In 2016, Chappel Galleries, Essex held the first retrospective of his paintings.

Portland Gallery is delighted to exclusively represent the Estate of Liam Hanley.

About Portland Gallery:

Portland Gallery was established in 1984 and are leading dealers in modern and contemporary British Art. Located in Bennet Street, the gallery is spread over two floors and plays host to 14 exhibitions a year, principally solo presentations of represented artists and estates. Portland Gallery participates at leading London art fairs. The gallery is owned by an Employee Ownership Trust.

- High resolution images of works in the exhibition are available on request
- Advanced viewings of artworks can be arranged on request
- An illustrated catalogue supports the exhibition

PORTLAND GALLERY

3 BENNET STREET • LONDON SW1A 1RP

TELEPHONE 020 7493 1888 • EMAIL art@portlandgallery.com

www.portlandgallery.com