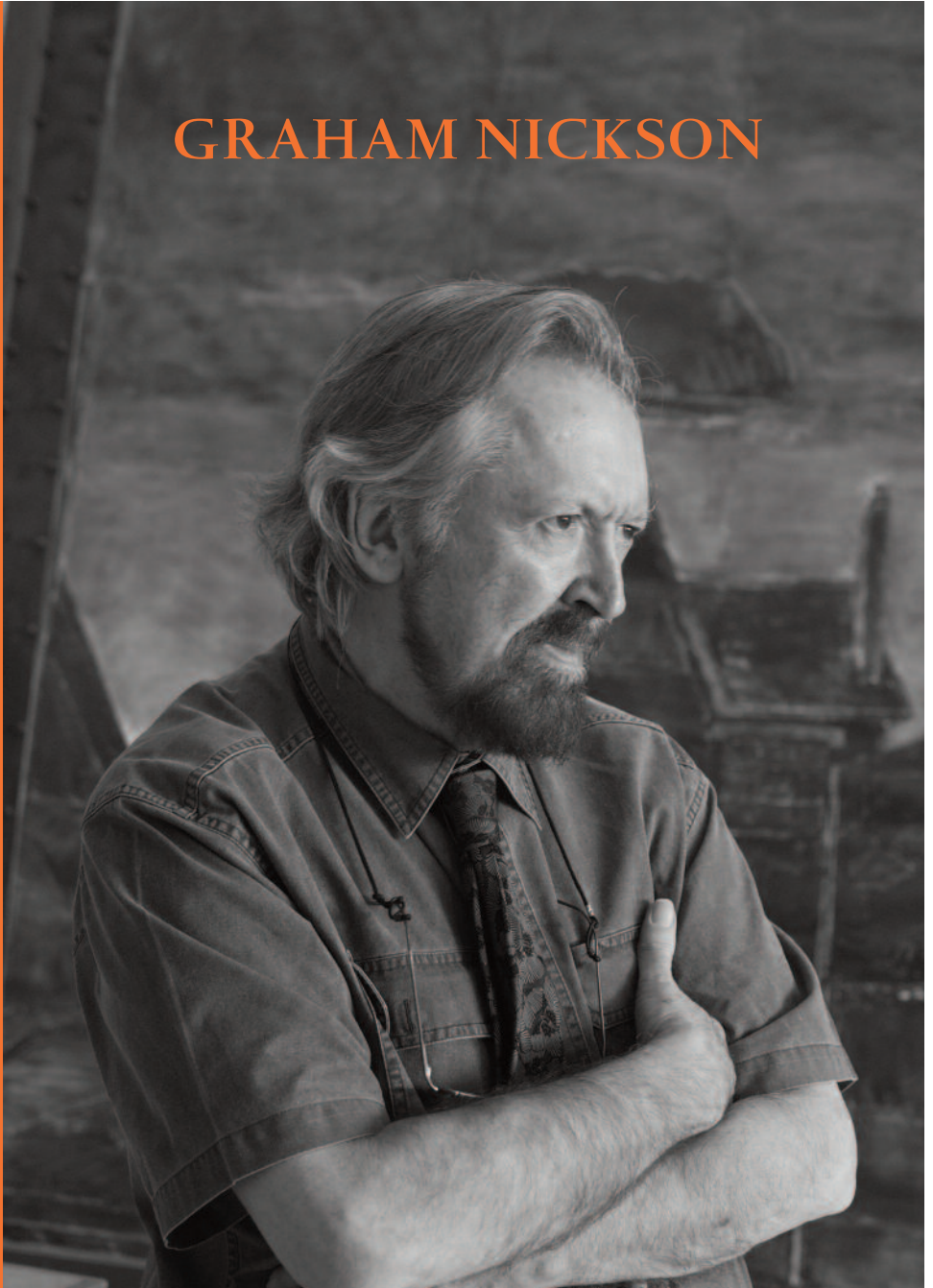




GRAHAM NICKSON

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BETTY CUNNINGHAM GALLERY



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Spectrum

APRIL 11–MAY 22, 2015

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Sunrise I: Nantucket, 2013
watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)





Sunrise III: Nantucket, 2013
watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)





Sunset: Polpis Harbor, 2013
watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)





What I find very special about watercolor is how different it is to the making of large paintings; in particular, I work on the large paintings for years and change them constantly, whereas in watercolor you can't make any changes because if you do, the color is destroyed... You could make intense, rich color that can stand up to an oil or acrylic painting. It was this color in a way that I found absolutely riveting, because it got me into the same habit that I did with the early oils of being able to paint regularly from perceptual experiences, especially of the sky. All those unexpected color combinations that one sees when one is painting perceptually, give "permission" for the radical color constructions that happen in the larger, more long-term paintings.¹

Sunset Nantucket, 2013
watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)





Sunset I: Pocomo, 2013
watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)







Sun Within the House I, 2014
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)





It comes from a specific experience but yet at the same time I want to re-make it, and make a place in its own right, a kind of timeless place that can somehow last decades...the place and much more than the place.²

Sun Within the House II, 2014
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)





Sun Within the House III, 2014
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)





Sun Within the House IV, 2014
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)





La Bobadilla Series: VIII, 2002
watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)





I had an interest in a very particular kind of space that was to do with bars of color...which is mirrored in everything from early Italian paintings to Matisse, where you have the sky, the ground, the ocean — and of course then you have the abstract version in Rothko.³

La Bobadilla Series: V, 2002

watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)





La Bobadilla Series: Sunset, 2002
watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)







La Bobadilla Series: VII, 2002
watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. (45.72 x 60.96 cm)







Danaë, 2006
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)





Early Morning, Bather with Hill, 2002
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)



The kind of images that I am very drawn to are those that are ostensibly very ordinary, that you see endlessly happening all around you, but something about them — some connection that maybe is to one's own past, or to some other memory or sensation — makes them interesting enough to pursue. It is that transformation of the banal into the memorable that is incredibly special. . . . That's what I was very interested in, trying to make the *transient monumental*.⁴



Camogli — Festival of Candles on Water, 2002
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)



People think that painting a sunrise is like taking a photograph: you've captured the whole thing in one second. But you aren't doing that at all. You are actually painting a sequence of time, and it often can be as long as several hours from darkness to almost mid-morning.⁵





Lucignano d'Asso, Sunrise XX, 2004
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)







Sarageto Sunset XXV, 2006
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)







Todi III, 2003
watercolor on paper, 21 1/2 x 29 in. (54.61 x 73.66 cm)







Todi VIII, 2003
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)







Colorado Red Mountain, 2002
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)







Slate Sky, Colorado, 2002
watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in. (55.88 x 76.2 cm)





I love the sheer heroic nature of abstract painting – that has always been for me the attraction to it. I've always thought that in a way my own paintings are very abstract, because I think if you are interested in strong figuration, then you've got to believe that the painting first and foremost is a strong abstraction, and that the figuration is the bonus. Matisse's *Piano Lesson* is possibly the most profound abstract painting ever. Piero della Francesca's *Battle of Heraclius and Chosroes* (Arezzo) still shocks me with its inventive abstraction.⁶

Tree of Birds, 2014
acrylic on canvas, 108 x 144 in. (274.32 x 365.76 cm)





GRAHAM NICKSON

- 1946 Born in Knowle Green, Lancashire, England
 1969 B.A. from Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts
 1972 M.A. from Royal College of Art
 1972-74 Prix de Rome, The British School at Rome
 1989 Guggenheim Fellowship in Painting
 1988-Pres. Dean of the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture
 The artist currently lives and works in New York City.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 Graham Nickson: *Spectrum*, Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York
 2014 Graham Nickson: *Transient Skies*, Lehman Gallery, Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts
 2011 Graham Nickson: *Paintings 1972-2011 Paths of the Sun*, Knoedler & Company, New York
 2009 *Graham Nickson: Edge of the Day, Watercolors: A Selection*, Monmouth Museum, New Jersey
 2009 *Graham Nickson: Italian Skies*, Jill Newhouse Gallery, New York
 2008 *Graham Nickson: Recent Watercolors*, Gallery Camino Real, Boca Raton, Florida
 2007-08 *Graham Nickson: Private Myths*, Naples Museum of Art, Naples, Florida
 2007 *Graham Nickson: Watercolors*, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York
Graham Nickson: Meeting and Passing, Lillehammer Kunstmuseum, Lillehammer, Norway
 2006 *Graham Nickson: New Work*, Camino Real Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
 2006 *Graham Nickson: Works from Private Collections*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, Florida
 2005 *Graham Nickson: Paintings*, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York
 2003 *Graham Nickson: Mayo Distinguished Visiting Artist, Watercolors*, Tulsa University, Oklahoma
Graham Nickson, Alpha Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts

- 2002 *Graham Nickson*, Camino Real Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
Graham Nickson: Large Works, Oil on Canvas, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York
- 2000 *Graham Nickson: Dual Natures*, (Retrospective) Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington. Traveled to: Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2001; Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, 2002; Halsey Gallery, Charleston, North Carolina, 2002
Graham Nickson: Exits and Entries: Watercolors, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York
Graham Nickson: Thought Through My Eyes - Recent Watercolors, The Robert & Mary Montgomery Art Center, West Palm Beach, Florida
- 1999 *Graham Nickson: New Work*, Camino Real Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
Graham Nickson: Watercolors, Von Leibig Art Center, Naples, Florida
- 1998 *Graham Nickson: Watercolors*, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York
- 1997 *Graham Nickson: Paintings*, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York
- 1996 *Graham Nickson: Drawings 1975-1996*, Glenn Horowitz Gallery, East Hampton, New York
Graham Nickson: Recent Drawings and Paintings, Camino Real Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
- 1995 *Graham Nickson: Paintings and Drawings*, Camino Real Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
Graham Nickson: Paintings and Drawings, Adelaide Central Gallery, Australia
- 1994 *Graham Nickson: Paintings and Drawings*, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York
Graham Nickson: Drawing Installation, Robert Morrison Gallery, New York
- 1991 *Graham Nickson*, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Graham Nickson, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York
- 1990 *Graham Nickson*, Gallery Camino Real, Boca Raton, Florida
- 1988 *Graham Nickson*, Riva Yarez Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona

- 1988 *Graham Nickson: Paintings and Drawings*, Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Sunderland. Traveled to: Albermarle Gallery, London; Warwick Arts Centre; Arts Council of Northern Ireland; Galerie Kluuvi, Helsinki
- 1987 *Graham Nickson*, Dart Gallery, Chicago
- 1986 *Graham Nickson*, Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York
- 1984 *Graham Nickson*, Dart Gallery, Chicago
Graham Nickson, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco
- 1983 *Graham Nickson: Recent Paintings*, Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York
- 1982 *Graham Nickson: Drawing Into Color*, William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
Graham Nickson: Paintings and Drawings, Susan Caldwell, Inc., New York
Graham Nickson: Large Works on Paper, Susan Caldwell, Inc., New York
- 1980 *Graham Nickson: Paintings and Drawings*, Susan Caldwell, Inc., New York
- 1979 *Graham Nickson: The Bather Series, Works on Paper*, Gallery 2, Syracuse, New York

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York
 American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York
 William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs
 Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida
 The British School at Rome, Italy
 Dallas Museum of Art, Texas
 Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, Massachusetts
 Fogg Museum, Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts
 Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington
 Israel Museum, Tel Aviv
 La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, California

Lillehammer Art Museum, Norway
 Long Island Museum of American Art, History & Carriages,
 Stony Brook, New York
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
 Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art, United Kingdom
 Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, California
 Museum of Modern Art, New York
 National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
 National Academy Museum, New York
 Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of
 New York
 Nuffield Foundation, London, U.K.
 Pollock Gallery, Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist
 University, Dallas, Texas
 Royal College of Art, London, United Kingdom
 Villa Romana, Florence, Italy
 The von Liebig Art Center, Naples Art Association, Florida
 Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University,
 Malibu, California
 Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2009 Kuspit, Donald. "Graham Nickson, Salander-O'Reilly
 Galleries," *Artforum*.
 Morgan, Robert C. "Graham Nickson: Italian Skies," *The
 Brooklyn Rail*.
 Ratcliff, Carter. "Graham Nickson and the Redemption of
 Watercolor," The Monmouth Museum.
- 2007 Laurie Schneider, Adams. "Graham Nickson and Piero della
 Francesca," *The Making and Meaning of Art*, Pearsen Education,
 Inc.
 Alpers, Svetlana. "The Shock of Sight," Lillehammer Art
 Museum.
 Bjerke, Øivind Storm. "A European in New York,"
 Lillehammer Art Museum.

- Carrier, David. "Painting at the Beach: Impressionism, Henri Matisse, Graham Nickson," Naples Museum of Art.
- Flam, Jack. "Graham Nickson and Chromatic Figuration," Naples Museum of Art.
- Forge, Andrew. "By the Sea," Naples Museum of Art.
- Ratcliff, Carter. "Graham Nickson's Republic of Sensibility," *Art in America*.
- Ratcliff, Carter. "Serene and Riotous Light: The Art of Graham Nickson," Lillehammer Art Museum.
- Wilkin, Karen "Graham Nickson: Private Myths," Naples Museum of Art.
- Hoff, Svein Olav; Bjerke, Øivind Storm; Nickson, Graham, "A Conversation About Art," Lillehammer Art Museum.
- 2006 Worth, Alexi. "The Immensest Theatre," Boca Raton Museum of Art.
- Yezi, David. "A Conversation with Graham Nickson," *The New Criterion*.
- 2003 Kimball, Roger. "Graham Nickson and the New York Studio School," *Art's Prospect: The Challenges of Tradition in an Age of Celebrity*.
- 2001 Fyfe, Joe. "Graham Nickson at Salander-O'Reilly," *Art in America*.
- 2000 Forge, Andrew. "On the Sea," Frye Art Museum.
- Hoffeld, Jeffrey. "Exits and Entries: Sunrises and Sunset," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries.
- Cooper, Harry. "Bathers at Work," Frye Art Museum.
- 1999 Cohen, David. "Marathon Man," *Modern Painters*.
- 1998 Cohen, David. "Graham Nickson—Small Works: Watercolors," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries.
- Flam, Jack. "Graham Nickson: Drawing and Color," Northern Centre for Contemporary Art.
- Forge, Andrew. "Graham Nickson's Bathers," Northern Center for Contemporary Art.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are truly honored to present *Spectrum*, Graham Nickson's first exhibition with the Gallery. Our thanks go to Pamela Salisbury and to Fran O'Neill for their daily support and valuable contributions. And our upmost gratitude goes to Graham, whose brilliance as a painter matches the brilliance of the color of the watercolors in this exhibition.

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Endnotes

1. "Bathers-Not-Bathers: A Dialogue between Graham Nickson and Jack Flam," in *Graham Nickson, Works from Private Collections*, (Boca Raton: Boca Raton Museum of Art, 2006), 38.
2. *Ibid*, 47.
3. *Ibid*, 41.
4. *Ibid*, 34.
5. *Ibid*, 43.
6. *Ibid*, 34.