



Gallery 94
Forces of Nature
19 June - 31 August 2021

Forces of Nature is a group exhibition exploring our increasingly complex relationship with the natural world. From imagined landscapes to topographical views, highly personal perspectives and almost scientific observations, this group exhibition considers nature's strength, its beauty and fragility, fears about its degradation and human impact on the environment. The exhibition challenges us to reframe nature's life-giving forces and in this anthropocene age, our power and responsibility to protect nature for the future.

Featuring new work by 18 artists from across the UK, *Forces of Nature* is Glyndebourne's first all-women exhibition. The exhibiting artists are Lesley Birch, Kate Boucher, Katie Brookes, Morag Caister, Lara Cobden, Linda Felcey, Michele Fletcher, Christabel Forbes, Jelly Green, Melanie Goemans, Tyga Helme, Linda Jamieson, Kathryn Johnson, Rosie Lascelles, Kathryn Maple, Esther Donaldson Nyandwi, Jayne Sandys-Renton and Victoria Sebag.

This exhibition has been curated by Nerissa Taysom.

For further information, hi-res images or to discuss bespoke framing and commissions, please contact nerissa.taysom@glyndebourne.com.

You can also follow the art programme at Glyndebourne on instagram [@artatglyndebourne](https://www.instagram.com/artatglyndebourne).

Lesley Birch



Lesley Birch (b.1958) is a Scottish painter currently based in York. She studied for an MA in English Literature and Music at the University of Glasgow, before spending the 1980s touring across the UK and USA as a professional musician. Birch began exploring her interest in art in 2000 whilst teaching English Literature in Cambridge. After moving to Yorkshire, she won a 'highly commended' in the Harrogate Open (2007) and held her first solo show, *Land & Sky*, at the Yorkshire Dales Centre (2008). Birch's work has been exhibited widely, at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, Cork Street Open and ING Discerning Eye at the Mall Galleries. Her work is also held in the Royal Marsden Hospital Collection. In 2016, Birch won the UK Artist Magazine Award and The Clairefontaine Award.

Birch's works respond to ideas of time and place. A line, a shape or a colour might start as a motif for a series of new works. In her works at Glyndebourne, Birch used nature in springtime as inspiration, 'I found great inspiration in the first daffodils appearing in the cold February lockdown. These buds represented a renewal of hope in the power of blooming colour. My associations with the feelings I have about this rebirth of things, I have tried to convey through colour, paint and gesture. The thing that fascinates me most is the power of certain combinations of colours, certain marks and movements to convey an emotion, an atmosphere - that is the joy of painting for me - that exciting moment when materiality and emotion meet.'

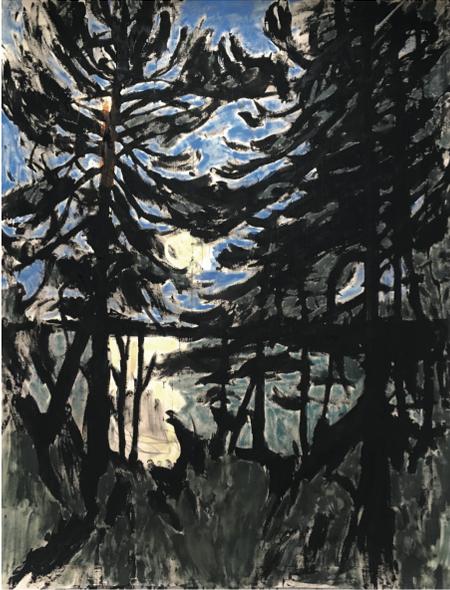
Kate Boucher



Kate Boucher (b.1972) was born in the Midlands. She studied Public Art at Chelsea School of Art in the early 1990s before going on to graduate with a Master of Fine Art with Distinction from West Dean College in 2016. Boucher has undertaken numerous residencies, at Candida Stevens Gallery in Chichester, Stiwdio Maelor, Wales and last year, at Caervallack, Cornwall and Mawddach Crescent in Wales, and received several awards and scholarships, including a prestigious QUEST Scholarship. She has exhibited widely, most recently in *A Celebration of Craft* at the V&A Museum, London; *Continuum* at the Menier Gallery, London; *Inarticulate Landscapes* at Unit 1, London and several group exhibitions at Zimmer Stewart Gallery and Candida Stevens Gallery, both in Sussex. Boucher's works have also been exhibited alongside master artists including David Nash OBE RA, Eileen Cooper OBE RA, Tom Hammick and Alice Kettle.

Boucher's evocative and immediate works explore landscape through drawing and mark making. Immersing herself in chosen places and travelling through them on repeated and habitual routes, she records her responses through sketchbooks, photography and drawing, often in sequence and in series. Boucher's works for Forces of Nature are taken from two parallel series, 'examining a perceived heightened awareness to the natural world during the first lockdown - one landscape walked, *beating the bounds*, and one remembered, *no place speaks with a single voice*. Photographs taken during the sanctioned hour-long daily walk, and trips in the previous year were sifted and sorted until drawings emerged that paired the sensed and the remembered bound up in these two landscapes.'

Katie Brookes



Katie Brookes (b.1987) was born near Manchester, grew up in Belgium and now lives and works in Brighton, UK. She studied at Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London, the Royal Drawing School and Turps Art School, completing her studies in 2017. Her works have been exhibited throughout the UK and internationally, with solo shows at Art Work Space London and the Chopping Block Gallery, London, as well as group shows at Christie's Auction House, London, Bermondsey project space and Turps Gallery. Alongside her artistic practice as a painter, Brookes is also an *Atelierista*, an Artist Teacher, at a Reggio Emilia inspired Small School and Forest School in West Sussex.

Brookes' series of forest and mountain paintings were created following a series of residencies in Norway in 2019. With layers of colour and texture, Brookes reflects on the majesty and power of nature seemingly untouched by mankind.

Morag Caister



Morag Caister (b. 1994) lives and works in Brighton, UK. She graduated from her BA in Painting at the University of Brighton in 2019. Caister maintains a figurative and often portrait-based practice focusing on people and moods within images of relatable urban scenes. Morag has exhibited across the UK and internationally and is currently represented by FORGEart Gallery and New Blood Art Gallery. In 2020, Caister painted celebrity Maître D'hôtel Fred Sirieix and Booker Prize winner Bernadine Evaristo as a semi-finalist in the latest series of Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year and was selected for inclusion in ING Discerning Eye, London Paint Club, and Blue Shop Cottage's open calls. This is Caister's second group exhibition with Gallery 94 at Glyndebourne.

Caister's works focus on congested city environments and the world of commuters, inspired by her experience as a child travelling between London and Sussex. Often raw with feeling and sympathetic to the mutual collective human experience, her works hover between graphic mark making and more painterly representations. In her new series of works for *Forces of Nature*, Caister explores the relationship between people and nature - the changing smells, sounds and feel of spring as people go about their daily routines.



Lara Cobden (b.1971) is a figurative painter living and working in Norwich, Norfolk. She studied at Painting at Brighton University and then spent 11 years on Valentia Island in Kerry, Ireland before relocating to Norfolk in East Anglia. In 2017, Cobden became a member of The Arborealists, a group of artists specialising in the art of trees. Her work has been exhibited in the UK and internationally and has been a recipient of a number of awards. In 2019, Cobden was awarded second place in the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize, was an exhibited finalist in the ING Discerning Eye at the Mall Galleries and a finalist in the inaugural Castlegate Painting Prize in 2020. Most recently, she was shortlisted for the 2020 John Moores Painting Prize at the Walker Gallery in Liverpool.

Working in both oils and watercolour, Cobden's paintings are rooted in a central theme of recollection and sense of place, informed by observation, memory and dream. In her own words, 'Pulling between the chimerical and the familiar - I hope there is both a stillness and fluidity in my work; in the ordinary, a sense of reverence. Paintings evolved from remembered fragments and casual snapshots shift between misty and precise, perceived reality and imagined narratives. I like to inhabit and explore this 'nowhere' or in-between place and try to collect and recreate that residue of experience; like recording details, grasping at the gossamer fabric of waking from a dream. The thread pulling my work together is about 'coming home', belonging; or conversely a sense of 'unbelonging'. Recurring themes of love and loss and the desire to capture the essence of experience - a fleeting moment, ephemeral and yet resilient in its presence, are what inspire me to paint.'

Linda Felcey



Linda Felcey (b.1965) works from her studio beneath the escarpment of Mount Caburn where the Downs meet the Weald. She trained at Grimsby School of Art and Kingston University, graduating with a BA Hons in Fine Art. After teaching in Higher Education for many years, she returned to painting full time and is now represented by Beaux Art, Bath, Sarah O’Kane Contemporary Fine Art, Sussex and Hybrid Gallery in Honiton, Devon. Felcey’s works are represented in numerous private collections both in the UK and internationally.

Combining elements of figurative, still life and abstract forms, Felcey paints iteratively and en plein air throughout the year, marking the seasons, the weather and elusive qualities of light and atmosphere. This starting point gives her paintings a fresh sense of immediacy and spontaneity, together with the highly considered and detailed painting she does in the later stages of the process. The organic forms in Felcey’s paintings are charged with a sense of unpredictability and fleeting movement, often juxtaposing the stillness and solidness of the ceramic objects that appear throughout her work. All Felcey’s paintings are oil on linen, and she uses thin layers of walnut oil to create subtle tonal layers and a sense of depth and luminosity.

Michele Fletcher



Michele Fletcher (b.1963) grew up in Canada, but now lives and works in London. She studied for a BA in Fine Art and Critical Theory at Goldsmiths, University of London, before graduating with an MA at Chelsea College of Art in 2007. Fletcher is the recipient of several awards including The Neville Burston Award for Painting and the Marmite Prize for Painting. She was also a Royal Overseas League Scholar at Hospitalfields, via the Patrick Alan Fraser Trust, Scotland. She has exhibited extensively in the UK and her works are held in many private and public collections, including Soho House, University of the Arts London, Ernst & Young Collection, Groucho Club and most recently, the University of Cambridge. She was a finalist prize winner in John Moores Painting Prize 2020.

Fletcher describes her practice as ‘abstracted ruminations on the cyclical changes in a garden. Informed by the natural world but relying on visual memory, my paintings tip at a point where the abstract touches the familiar. The making of a garden or a painting involves an intervention with material - pulling, pushing, manipulating and composing. My paintings are shaped through choices dictated by ground, colour, and mark-making – the entire process building upon itself’.

Christabel Forbes



Christabel Forbes (b.1991) was born in Courbevoie outside Paris, of mixed French and British parentage, and is now based in London. A colourist, she creates landscape paintings and mixed media works in a treatment that is unmistakably her own. She obtained a BA in Fine Art at Falmouth University before studying at the Royal Drawing School and now regularly teaches at West Dean College and as a specialist art teacher at the Italian School in London. Over the past five years, Forbes has completed residencies in Italy and India, undertaken private commissions and commercial work for interior designers, and exhibited in exhibitions including at London's Green Spaces, Blue Shop Cottage, Chelsea Art Society and The Violet Hour. Forbes' works are held in collections including The Royal Collection and the Michael Moritz-Heyman Foundation.

Forbes uses colour and landscape to evoke a sense of people and places, often creating works in response to her travels and residencies abroad. Through playful and vibrant mark making, Forbes works shift from observation to imagined and remembered places: 'I draw from observation, inspired by scenes around me. I use small sketchbooks before working up much larger-scale mixed media artworks. I began my practice with an interest in cartography and artistic map-making and now use colour in a playful and experimental way, using a range of materials including oils, watercolours, pen, ink and natural pigment'. Her series of new works for *Forces of Nature* were completed at a recent residency in Shropshire where she spent time drawing and painting *plein air*.

Jelly Green



Jelly Green (b.1992) is a British - New Zealand painter who now divides her time between her studio in Suffolk and London. She studied at Morley College and The Prince's Drawing School, both in London, and has been mentored by the artist Maggi Hambling CBE since she was 16 years old. Green's works are already widely collected throughout Europe, the US, Asia, Middle East and Australasia. She is represented by The Rowley Gallery, London, Branch Arts and The Maltings Gallery, Snape Maltings, Suffolk.

Green's paintings are imbued with a deep passion for nature and landscape - whether it's the Brazilian rainforest, where she lived in a treehouse for several months, or the bucolic English garden of her childhood. For the last five years her work has been focused on raising awareness of the deforestation that is occurring throughout the earth, primarily in tropical rainforests.

Melanie Goemans



Melanie Goemans (b.1970) grew up in the Lincolnshire fens, spending time in Italy before studying for a BA and MA at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London followed by MA in Fine Art, Painting at the School of Art, University of Gloucestershire. After a series of residencies and teaching posts, she relocated from London to Cambridgeshire and now works from her studio in Ely. Melanie has exhibited widely in solo and group shows across the UK including at the Florence Trust, London; Jerwood Space, London; Bridgeman Gallery, London; Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London; The Stratford Gallery, Stratford upon Avon; Josie Eastwood Fine Art, Winchester; Cornwall Contemporary, Penzance. Her work is held in corporate and private collections around the world, and has been selected for juried exhibitions including, most recently, the ING Discerning Eye (2020); and the John Moores Painting Prize (2020).

Goemans' practice considers overlooked forms in nature, finding beauty and stillness in the everyday. In her own words, she states: 'In the early morning I walk between the railway line and the river. Small seasonal shifts, incidental things we might rush past usually, become more noticeable walking the same paths like a ritual. I look at what is permanent and fixed, and what is transient and temporary, and conclude that everything is changing, even in this moment. What I photograph and paint is not there now and the painting becomes like a ghost, a trace of a memory of something that inevitably will never be exactly the same again. Working from projections of photographs I've taken, I trace the lines loosely with a fine square ended brush, and the marks build up the complicated patterns of the whole. Using traditional materials and composition, my work gives these fleeting moments status and draws attention to their value.'

Tyga Helme



Tyga Helme (b.1990) studied Fine Art and History of Art at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 2021. She was awarded a full scholarship to study at the Royal Drawing School in London and was awarded the Machin Foundation Prize on graduation. She has been granted artist residencies at Dumfries House in Ayrshire and Borgo Pignano In Italy, Sevenoaks School in Kent and has completed a teaching residency at the International Institute of Fine Arts, Modinigar in India. Helme's works have been shown in many exhibitions across the UK, most recently at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colour, the Derwent Art Prize, Pastel Society, Fresh Paint, Bowes-Parris, Blue Shop Cottage, Purslane and Crean and Company. She has also exhibited at the Fleming Collection in London and at Christie's in New York.

Helme uses the directness and urgency of drawing from life as a springboard for all her work. She explores the feeling of being overwhelmed through her drawing, finding her subjects in the spaces of transition and in the sublime. She couples the spontaneity of the moment with returning to places over and over again, allowing memory and imagination to permeate.

Linda Jamieson



Linda Jamieson (b.1957) lives and works on the Norfolk coast. She was educated in the UK, France and Switzerland and trained at Central Saint Martins and worked for many years as a textile designer before returning to painting in the early 2000s. Since then, she has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions in London and Norfolk, including the annual *Contemporary and Country* at Houghton Hall alongside artists including Richard Long, Damien Hirst and Henry Moore. This year, she has a solo exhibition at The Colombia, London.

Working in a variety of media including oil and acrylic, Jamieson uses landscape painting to explore the technical and emotional issues that arise in her practice: 'I use landscape as a stage set with its props of plant life, water, weather and topical features as a portal into a space where I can explore technical problems within the limits of two dimensional space. There is no fixed point of departure and I remain open to sudden changes of direction. I aim to create emotionally charged places that have fragments of memory embedded in them. These 'memories' may not be personal but borrowed. I like torn postcards, film stills, scraps of fabric, partially recalled dreams. The place I arrive at has no past or future, just one moment in time when I recognise a part of myself.'

Kathryn Johnson



Kathryn Johnson (b.1995) was born in Edinburgh and now lives and works in Aberdeen, Scotland. She studied for a BA Hons in Painting at Gray's School of Fine Art, where she was awarded the J Gordon Brown Memorial Painting Prize on graduating in 2019. In the same year, she embarked on a three week residency living with an indigenous community in Armila, Panama, with La Wayaka Current. In 2020, she was selected for FBA Futures at the Mall Galleries in London, longlisted for the Jackson's Painting Prize and also exhibited a series of new large-scale paintings in the Art at Glyndebourne online showcase that summer.

Johnson's works explore the powerful sensations of being in nature, 'I strive for a balance between the physical landscape we see in front of us and the one we feel and remember. By using a restricted close palette, I aim for the image to go in and out of focus so that the viewer searches deeper and deeper for its meaning. It is why my work is often accompanied by poems; a series of clues and directions of what the viewer should focus on, within the painting and within themselves.'

Rosie Lascelles



Rosie Lascelles (b.1988) is a Sussex based painter working in watercolour and collage. She studied History of Art at Leeds University before developing her artistic practice in a series of residencies in Nepal and Barcelona, exhibiting works in London, New York and Tibet. This is her third group exhibition at Glyndebourne.

Drawn to painting plein air, Lascelles' works celebrate the English countryside, from bright sunny kitchen gardens to the sweeping hillside views of the South Downs. In her 'portraits' of trees, painted in a luscious palette of acid greens and soft pinks, she reveres each one as a majestic, living thing. Building up her paintings using flattened strips of colour, each work is on a small scale belying the breadth of nature on her doorstep. Lascelles' works are a hymn to the spirit of place.

Kathryn Maple



Kathryn Maple (b.1989) is a London based artist. She studied Printmaking at Brighton University and undertook a six month residency at The Muse Gallery on Portobello Road before completing The Drawing Year at The Royal Drawing School in 2013. Maple won the Sunday Times Watercolour Competition (2014 & 2016) and has exhibited at the Marmite Painting Prize; Royal Academy Summer Exhibition; Beers Gallery; Jerwood Drawing Prize; Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize; Christie's International for 'The Best of The Drawing Year 2012-13'; and at the 'Betweenlands' an exhibition hosted by Blaine Southern in 2014. In 2021, Maple won the John Moores Painting Prize for her monumental painting *The Common*, which explored 'the deeply social nature of humans', following in the footsteps of Peter Doig, Rose Wylie and David Hockney. In 2022, she will have a solo exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

Maple's works are based on the relationship between mankind and nature. Ideas for paintings come from memory, drawings and photographs and often come together like a collage, with the subject emerging from filtered shapes and bursts of colour.

Esther Donaldson Nyandwi SSA



Esther Donaldson Nyandwi is a Scottish artist. She studied at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee and Edinburgh College of Art, graduating with a BA Hons in Fine Art in 1993. She has since exhibited and sold work in galleries across the UK, including the Royal Scottish Academy of Art; Society of Scottish Artists; Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour; Royal Society of British Artists and ING Discerning Eye in 2020. She was elected as a professional member of the Society of Scottish Artists in 2019. Donaldson Nyandwi has won numerous awards, including the 'House for an Art Lover Award' at the Royal Scottish Academy in 2018 and she received a VACM Award from East Lothian Council in 2020 and 2021. Her work was also selected for the Favourite's List in the Royal Academy's 2019 Summer Exhibition.

Donaldson Nyandwi's practice is concerned with capturing gardens, woodlands and country estates close to where she lives. She writes: 'The garden for me is a place of quiet, a place to stop, an almost religious 'building'. It has witnessed the brevity of life, the joy and transience of beauty, the daily toil, death and re-birth, the seasons of life. I want my art to reflect these seasons. My work is becoming increasingly more referential and not entirely realistic, inviting the viewer's participation and hopefully giving a glimpse into the life, toil, death and re-birth of the creative journey.'

Jayne Sandys-Renton



Jayne Sandys-Renton (b.1966) is a painter based in Chichester, West Sussex. She studied BA (Hons) Fine Art at University College Chichester and MA at West Dean College, graduating with Distinction in 2008. Sandys-Renton then went on to study on the prestigious Turps Banana correspondence course between 2018-2020, mentored by Hanna Murgatroyd and Sarah Pickstone. She has been an artist in residence twice at The Cyprus College of Art in Lemba, Cyprus. Sandys-Renton has had solo exhibitions at the Oxmarket Centre of Arts in Chichester, Gallery Muse, Petersfield, Goodwood and The Cornaro Institute in Cyprus. Group exhibitions have included Cohort Art, National Open Art at Arundel Castle, Frickleton Fine Art, The Gallery in Stoke Newington, London and Naked Eye Gallery in Brighton. Her works are now held in various private collections across the UK, USA and Germany.

Sandys-Renton's works explore ideas of nature as sites of transformation, imagination and feeling: 'When Glyndebourne asked me to be part of the *Forces of Nature* exhibition, we were a country in lockdown. For almost a year my garden had become a world to inhabit, observing what happened there became the focus for my paintings. My daughters returned home, and the garden held them. Paper lanterns swung in the breeze and they exchanged secrets in hidden corners, wondering when they might be set free. The moon bathed them, and the sun speckled light let in some promise. The paintings are about transformative moments where nature and human interaction create an otherworldliness, and a strange reality imposed at this particular time. My paintings are an entanglement of gestural marks and intense colour. Layers of paint dip into memory, myth, and fairy tale. The titles in these works are from poetry, music, literature, and the deep feeling gained from watching women in nature.'

Victoria Sebag



Victoria Sebag (b.1969) is a painter who splits her time between London and Suffolk. She trained at the Byam Shaw School of Art and The Slade School of Fine Art, where she specialised in abstract oil painting and was taught by Bruce McLean. She started painting her popular still life paintings in 1997 and developed a preoccupation with capturing nature. During this time, she also started Sebag Textiles, an interior design line of fabrics inspired by the colours, patterns and forms found in nature. More recently, her work has become looser, inspired by the wild landscapes and beaches of Suffolk. She has exhibited in numerous galleries in London and Suffolk.

Sebag's paintings take their inspiration from the flora and fauna that she encounters on a daily basis - the plants of coastal beaches, wild hedgerows inland and cuttings from her garden. With a love of colour and gesture, she references the delicate balance between mankind and nature, drawing attention to the species and forms of areas in the world that remain wild and whose future is precarious and uncertain.

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All works are for sale through the Shop and support the ongoing work of Glyndebourne