



CONTEMPORARY SIX

N O R T H E R N
B O Y S

A group exhibition celebrating *plein air* painting at Contemporary Six
Preview: Saturday 6 April, 11am–5pm; runs until Sunday 21 April

WELCOME TO The Northern Boys show at Contemporary Six, a group exhibition celebrating the finest *plein air* painting.

Have you looked out from a Manchester tram to see a figure before an easel, stooped under an umbrella, painting furiously in the driving rain? ...



Chances are, you've seen one of The Northern Boys — the distinguished outdoor painting group — nine of the North's finest *plein air* painters, dedicated professionals and friends.

For two weeks from Saturday 6 April, the inaugural group exhibition of The Northern Boys is on display at the Gallery. Each of the nine artists has contributed a number of *plein air* paintings to the collection, from Manchester, Venice, London, and more, and after enjoying a 2018 full of awards and accolades from across the nation — now is the time to take notice of this wildly talented group of painters and friends.

Membership of this accomplished group incorporates four Gallery-artists: Rob Pointon, Adam Ralston, Norman Long, and Michael Ashcroft, along with Ian Layton, Chris Slater, Steven Smith, Andrew Farmer, and David Allen.

Though each member has his own style, the group are united in their love for painting outdoors, "*en plein air*". This hazardous process, requiring fortitude against the great British weather and inquisitive public, lends an unmistakable freshness and energy to the paintings.

Painting outdoors creates work that is always distinctly of the moment in which it was created, and yet timeless. This is a quality found in the work of The Northern Boys — whether it be the evening-silhouetted domes of Italy, the lapping shores of Blackpool promenade, or the low beams of petrol-soaked Manchester. Life, as perceived by the artist, shines through.

Each of the paintings in the exhibition is available for purchase, and can be viewed either in the Gallery or online. I hope you enjoy the exhibition, and look forward to welcoming you to the Gallery.

Alex Reuben
Gallery Owner

Please visit our website to view the full list of works in the exhibition:

www.contemporarysix.co.uk/the-northern-boys/





David Allen
b. 1948
British

David Allen RSMA

David worked as a draughtsman and land surveyor, and then as a chartered civil engineer until he gave up his career in 1989 to paint full-time. He works in pastels and oils, painting studies *en plein air*, and larger works in his Yorkshire studio. He is a member of the Fylingdales Group of Artists (elected 1998) and a member of the Royal Society of Marine Artists (elected in 2006).

Achievements

- R. K. Burt and Company Ltd Canson Paper Mill Award, RSMA Annual Exhibition, 2013
- Society of All Artists Professional Artist of the Year Award, 2011
- Conway Maritime Press Age of Sail Award, RSMA Annual Exhibition, 2006
- Classic Boat Magazine Prize, RSMA Annual Exhibition, 2005
- Highly Commended Prize, Harrogate Open Exhibition, 2005
- Art Prize Finalist, Pastel Artist International Magazine, 2002
- Frank Herring Award, Pastel Society, 2002



David Allen
The Grand Canal at Rialto (15" x 20")
Pastel
£950.00



< David Allen
Reflections, Moor Lane,
Linton (10" x 12")
 Pastel
 €650.00

David Allen >
Rio San Sofia, Venice
 (16" x 12")
 Oils
 €750.00





Michael Ashcroft
b. 1969
British

Michael Ashcroft MAFA

Michael's paintings have evolved over the years from early abstract acrylics, to using oils and painting more representational works on location. The foundations that underpin his paintings haven't changed; they are his fascination with light and dark and his love for the city and landscape.

Achievements

- Royal Institute of Oil Painters
- Solo exhibition at Contemporary Six, 2018
- Winner of the Frank Herring Easel Award, 2017
- BoldBrush Award, Winner, 2017
- Buxton Spa Prize 3rd Prize, 2015
- BoldBrush Award, Finalist, 2014
- Artist of the Year, Highly Commended, 2013
- Artist of the Year, Finalist, 2013
- International Artist, Finalist
- Browndge Art Festival, Winner
- West Lancashire Open, Commendation
- South Ribble Winner and People's Prize
- Harris Museum Winner, 2009
- Show Me the Monet, Finalist



Michael Ashcroft
Crossroads, Deansgate Station, Manchester
(9" x 12")
Oils
£950.00



Michael Ashcroft
Caught in the Light, Lass O Gowrie, Manchester (10" x 8")
Oils
£850.00



Michael Ashcroft
*Lady In Red, Peveril of
the Peak, Manchester*
(10" x 12")
Oils
£950.00



Andrew Farmer
b. 1985
British

Andrew Farmer AROI

Andrew produces work which is heavily rooted in observation. The artist thrives on the act of looking, analysing, and trying to understand the world around him.

"I love to paint the ordinary, elevating simple subjects that will cause the viewer to take more notice of the many wonderful and beautiful things surrounding us daily."

Achievements

- 1st Prize, Doncaster Plein Air Painting Award, 2018
- 1st Prize, Winsor and Newton Award for Painting, ROI, Mall Galleries, 2018
- Paint Out Norwich, Judges Commendation, 2018
- 2nd Place, 'Create Longridge' Art Event, 2018
- 1st Place (Best in Show), The New Fringe Open Exhibition, Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, 2018
- Shortlisted for the Haworth Northern Landscape Award, NEAC Mall Galleries, 2016



Andrew Farmer
*Feeding the Ducks,
Morning Light*
(24" x 26")
Oils
£1400.00



Andrew Farmer
*Sunset at the Duck
 Pond* (18" x 24")
 Oils
 £1200.00



Andrew Farmer
South Bound (5" x 7")
 Oils
 £350.00



Ian Layton
b. 1953
British

Ian Layton

Ian Layton expressed an interest in painting from an early age, and ever since, growing success allowed him to fulfil his desire to paint on his own terms. His paintings are a celebration of light and atmosphere; he particularly enjoys capturing the transient aspects of weather and the *contre jour* effect of painting directly into the light.

Achievements

- Exhibited at The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition
- The New English Art Club
- The Royal Institute of Oil Painters
- The Royal Society of British Artists
- The Royal Society of Marine Artists
- The Discerning Eye
- Winner of The Discerning Eye Chairman's Purchase Prize, 2004



Ian Layton
The Bathroom
(13.5" x 9.5")
Oils
£695.00



Ian Layton
The Conversation
 (11" x 15")
 Oils
 £995.00



Ian Layton
Staithes Spring Day
 (13.5" x 9")
 Oils
 £695.00



Norman Long
b. 1976
British

Norman Long MAFA

Norman's paintings observe the world from an outsider's perspective and magically transform mundane interactions into captivating narrative paintings. His work captures the fleeting moments of daily life, whether this is in a café, on the train home, or walking down the street. It cannot be denied there is something unique about the way Norman translates these ordinary moments into something extraordinary.

Achievements

- New English Art Club 1999, 2018
- Royal Institute of Oil Painters 1999, 2014, 2016
- Dr Barbara Oldham Memorial Award, MAFA 2015
- Artist of the Year, Artist and Illustrators Magazine, 2013
- Ruth Borchard Self Portrait Exhibition 2011, 2013
- de Laszlo Award, Royal Society of Portrait Painters, 2010
- Royal Society of Portrait Painters 2007, 2010
- BP Portrait Award, 2000, 2006
- Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art Scholarships



Norman Long
Borough Market
(12" x 18")
Oils
£795.00



Norman Long
*Autumn Blaze, Piccadilly
 Gardens* (12" x 18")
 Oils
 £795.00



Norman Long
*Last Light San Giovanni
 E Paolo* (20" x 24")
 Oils
 £1,395.00



Rob Pointon
b. 1982
British

Rob Pointon AROI MAFA

Rob Pointon paints entirely *en plein air* and has a particular interest in the use of wider-angled perspectives and the depiction of movement within his paintings.

Achievements

- Elected Associate Member of Royal Institute of Oil Painters 2018
- 1st Prize, ROI Paint Live Competition, Dec 2018
- The Menena Joy Schwabe Memorial Award, ROI Annual Exhibition, 2018
- Overall Winner, 1st Prize in Oils, Judges Commendation, Paint Out, 2018
- Winsor & Newton Artist Award, 2nd Prize u35, ROI Annual Exhibition, 2016
- Winner of the €4000 Haworth Prize, New English Art Club, 2016
- 3rd Prize, Buxton Spa Prize, 2016, 2015
- 2nd Prize, ROI Paint Live Competition, 2015
- Postgraduate study at Royal Drawing School, London, 2004–05



Rob Pointon
*Snow Flurry, St. Peter's
Square* (16" x 20")
Oils
£1550.00



Rob Pointon
Piccolino, Manchester
(16" x 20")
Oils
£1550.00

Rob Pointon
Shaded Chinatown
(16" x 20")
Oils
£1550.00



Adam Ralston
b. 1970
British

Adam Ralston MAFA

Adam Ralston paints in oils from direct observation on location. He has exhibited with the New English Art Club, the Royal Institute Of Oil Painters, and the Royal Society Of British Artists.

"I'm interested in *plein air* and still life painting. I try and recreate the atmosphere of what I'm seeing by searching for the correct tonal values and colour, whilst trying my best to keep to the drawing."

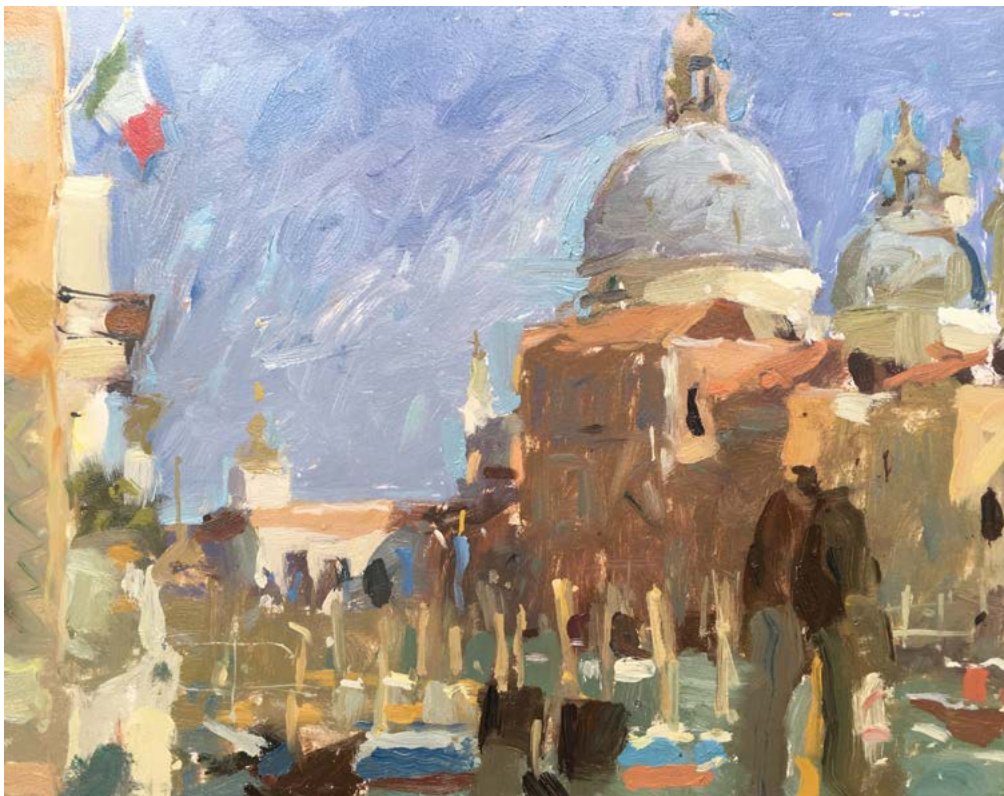
Achievements

- Royal Institute Of Oil Painters (ROI), 2018/17/16
- New English Art Club (NEAC), 2018/17/16
- Create Longridge, 1st Place, 2018
- Pintar Rapido (London), 1st Place, 2017; 3rd Place, 2016
- Royal Society Of British Artists (RBA), 2017
- Manchester Academy of Fine Arts (MAFA membership), 2017
- Royal Institute Of Oil Painters (ROI), Won the 'Frank Herring Easel Award', 2016
- ROI Paintlive, 1st Place, 2017



Adam Ralston
Oxford Rd. (16" x 12")
Oils
£695.00





< Adam Ralston
North Pier Sunset
(10" x 12")
Oils
£495.00

Adam Ralston
Salute, Afternoon Light
(10" x 13")
Oils
£525.00



Chris Slater
b. 1953
British

Chris Slater

Chris Slater has painted with the Northern Boys since 2014. From the streets of Manchester, London, Paris, and Venice, he relishes the contact with the public that painting outdoors brings.

He has exhibited widely, and has work in many private collections both in the UK and abroad, with exhibitions in Rotherham and beyond.

Achievements

- Exhibited with R.S.M.A.
- Exhibited with R.O.I. Mall Galleries, London
- Discerning Eye, London
- Exhibited at Hull Open
- Exhibited at Doncaster Open
- Sheffield Great Art Show, Winner Best Painting in Show by public vote
- Pintar Rapido, London, 2018
- Artist in Residence, The Great Yorkshire Show, 2017



Chris Slater
Northern Nocturnal
(16" × 16")
Oils
£795.00



Chris Slater
Rain Effect, London
(20" × 16")
Oils
£895.00



Chris Slater
Contre Jour Cornwall
20" x 24"
Oils
£1200.00



Steven Smith
b. 1974
British

Steven Smith

Steven Phillip Smith was born in Preston, Lancashire, in 1974. He studied Art at A-level, and then his Foundation at Wigan & Leigh College, before going to Middlesbrough University to study Fine Art.

From 1996 Steven has worked full time as a studio painter. His figurative paintings and portrait commissions are highly sought after in galleries throughout the UK.

The influence of friends Michael Ashcroft, Norman Long, and Adam Ralston encouraged Steven to paint more outdoors. He has painted with the Northern Boys since 2016 and has become increasingly drawn to painting outdoors; he works in oils from direct observation whenever possible.

He has exhibited his paintings in several joint shows and solo exhibitions and is represented in many UK galleries. He was pre-selected for the 2018 RA Summer show and has also been pre-selected for the RP Open exhibition 2019.



Steven Smith
*Fondamenta Giacinto
Gallina, Venice*
(10" x 12")
Oils
£765.00



< Steven Smith
*The Liverpool and
 London and Global
 Insurance Building from
 Princess Street*
 (10" x 12)
 Oils
 £785.00

Steven Smith >
*Giovani e Paola Benches
 in September*
 (18" x 20")
 Oils
 £1,495.00



**WORKS WILL BE AVAILABLE to
purchase over the phone from
Tuesday 2 April at 10:30am.**

**To see the full selection of
works in the exhibition, visit:
[www.contemporarysix.co.uk/
the-northern-boys/](http://www.contemporarysix.co.uk/the-northern-boys/)**



Call us at 0161 835 2666

A word from our sponsor

The School of Arts, Languages and Cultures at the University of Manchester is very proud to be associated with the Northern Boys exhibition at Contemporary Six. Our mission as a university is to spread art, culture and conversation out beyond the academy. As a society we all benefit from an engagement with the arts, and our intention as an institution is to promote that conversation wherever we can. More than that, we are very proud as a university to reflect on the past, present, and future of this city. And there is no better way of practising what we preach than supporting artists who capture and reflect the people and places that make this city and region what it is.

The paintings in this exhibition travel far and wide beyond Manchester. But what links them is the artists on display, their camaraderie, and their close attachment to the North. I too travel to many places in the promotion of Manchester's great benefits and attractions. And what I see when I return

home is captured by the Northern Boys: a city of tradition, and one fiercely proud of its past. But it's also a forward-thinking city of the 21st century, acutely aware of its relationship to some of the world's other great metropolises. This wonderful exhibition is of and about many places as much as it's about Manchester. But it's also about the relationships we forge, and the friendships that last a lifetime. It is, in effect, about the lives we all live and the places we all belong in. And only art and culture can truly make those connections for us, can bring alive those memories and hold them up as things to admire and remember. Enjoy the exhibition.

Ian Scott
**Director for External Relations SALC,
The University of Manchester**

Preview: 11am – 5pm Saturday 6 April, runs until Sunday 21 April
We hope you can attend the preview. If you are interested in purchasing a painting,
please contact us by visiting the Gallery or our website, by email, or by phone.

CONTEMPORARY SIX

Exhibition
supported by:

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

CONTEMPORARY SIX
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Opening Hours

MON: CLOSED

TUES–FRI: 10:30 – 6PM

SAT: 10:30 – 5PM

SUN: 11 – 5PM