

# CONTEMPORARY SIX

## AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

*A solo exhibition of new paintings by  
Rob Pointon ROI*

*Friday, October 23 – Friday, November 6 2020*

*Preview: ONLINE ONLY 7:30pm on Friday,  
October 23 2020*

*Exhibition in the Gallery opens to public on  
Saturday, October 24 2020*

Contemporary Six,  
37 Princess Street,  
Manchester,  
M2 4FN

### Contact:

0161 835 2666

[info@contemporarysix.co.uk](mailto:info@contemporarysix.co.uk)

[www.contemporarysix.co.uk](http://www.contemporarysix.co.uk)

**Due to ever-changing circumstances with COVID-19, please keep an eye on our website for updates on visiting the Gallery during the exhibition.**



Contemporary Six is thrilled to present a new body of work by Gallery-artist Rob Pointon. The artist's long-awaited first solo exhibition at the Gallery, *An Unprecedented Year* features 25 original oil paintings from the artist, all painted amid an extraordinary twelve months.

## CONTEMPORARY SIX

The life of a painter never stops. And for the past year, Rob Pointon has spent his time capturing a zeitgeist that has left nobody unaffected — touching everything from the economy, to family life, to the way we interact. Always painting on-location, the artist is uniquely positioned to observe the changing environment; and this year, that change has been seismic. Pointon has become one of the country's most exciting and promising living painters, and this show marks a pivotal moment in his impressive career. At the vanguard of *plein air*, he has turned his refined eye to the truly universal subject: *now*.

*An Unprecedented Year* is an exhibition grounded in real life: the streets of the city, both inhabited and sparse; the now antiquated sight of crowds; the significance of quiet spaces, cultural sites, and art galleries. And yet it is Rob Pointon's vivid and sometimes experimental style that elevates real life to a place of extraordinary beauty.



Born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1982, Pointon learned to paint under the watchful eye of his artist grandmother. “What I aspire to achieve with my artwork,” says Pointon, “is for each mark to be a direct experience that others can identify with. I push myself to make that shared experience as immersive and engaging as possible, picking scenes alive with movement. I paint amongst the action”.



## CONTEMPORARY SIX

Pointon's paintings are enjoyed with slow looking, changing over time as the eye picks out a new detail. He reconciles multiple-point perspective and an impressionistic truthfulness to the subject — all with a fluidity of brushwork that makes the paintings shimmer. Whether crowds or still waterways, his works have a language of multitudes — of layered brushstrokes, of angles and vantage points, of the slightest variances in colour.

Possessing the rare ability to adapt his style to suit his subject, Pointon's paintings of commuters and busy streets reference the dramatic exaggerations of the Vorticists, just as his Venitian sunsets embrace the gestural French Impressionists, and the deftness of John Singer Sargent. His popular Manchester cityscapes evoke the atmosphere of Valette, and yet Pointon is a distinctly contemporary painter, adding to this procession of art historical movements the animation of contemporary life in Britain.

Pointon's reputation has flourished in recent years: in 2020, he was awarded full membership of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters. Between 2016–19, he was the international artist-in-residence for Manchester Airport, travelling and rendering the world in paint. He has also exhibited widely in the New English Art Club and Royal Institute of Oil Painters exhibitions, and in 2019, his paintings shone in The Northern Boys exhibition at Contemporary Six.

“The City of Manchester,” says Pointon, “has become my regular office, my early commute, my daily grind. The city's symbol of a worker bee resonates. These streets are my painting gymnasium and this show reflects my battle with urban life over a volatile year.”



This will be the first major exhibition of Rob Pointon at Contemporary Six, although his works have attracted a large and loyal following since his introduction to the Gallery. We deem Rob to be one of the most important northern artists of his generation. This is an exhibition not to be missed.

Pointon has paintings in the permanent collection of: The Admirals House at The Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich; the collection at Weston

## CONTEMPORARY SIX

Park, Shropshire; the Council Chamber, Stoke-on-Trent, commissioned to commemorate 100 years of the federation of the six towns; the personal archive of HRH The Prince of Wales; the private collection of Duchess of Devonshire Chatsworth, and personal collections around the world.

### Notes to editors

*For this exhibition, the Gallery is operating with reduced opening hours and dates. For the first time, we will be offering timed visiting slots to ensure easier social distancing, and a safe Gallery for all. Plan ahead, and get in touch to arrange a booking.*

We will also produce a virtual exhibition for any client who is unable to visit the Gallery. This will be launched on our website on the day of the Preview.

Contemporary Six offers the Own Art scheme, allowing clients to purchase a piece of art over ten interest-free payments.

### Contact details

Contemporary Six, 37 Princess St, Manchester, M2 4FN

[www.contemporarysix.co.uk](http://www.contemporarysix.co.uk)

E: [info@contemporarysix.co.uk](mailto:info@contemporarysix.co.uk)

T: 0161 835 2666

### Opening hours

Tue–Thurs: 11am–4pm

Saturday: 10.30am–5pm

Opening hours subject to change.

### Media enquiries

For any further queries or more images, please contact Jordan Harrison-Twist at Contemporary Six.

E: [info@contemporarysix.co.uk](mailto:info@contemporarysix.co.uk)

T: 0161 835 2666

# CONTEMPORARY SIX

## About Contemporary Six

Contemporary Six is a leading independent art gallery located in the heart of Manchester, opposite the beautiful Town Hall. Established in 2010, the Gallery is known for offering a warm and friendly welcome to art enthusiasts, collectors, and new visitors to the city.

Fine Art graduate Alex was just 24 when he opened Contemporary Six with the ambition that his Gallery be a place for discovering emerging artists, and showcasing award-winning and internationally acclaimed works.

Specialising in original paintings — landscapes, portraits, and abstracts — handmade prints, sculptures and ceramics, Contemporary Six is committed to displaying variety in artworks, with integrity and substance a priority. Having built a reputation for being both very personable and knowledgeable, Alex has built a loyal custom base for the Gallery, putting on a number of excellent solo exhibitions per year, as well as group shows, and artist talks.

[www.contemporarysix.co.uk](http://www.contemporarysix.co.uk)