

Without Words

A collaboration between artist Ashley Davies and
The Galliard Ensemble (Wind Quintet)



LOTTERY FUNDED

Introduction

This booklet is a review of a collaborative art and music project held at the Orleans House Gallery in Richmond, London. The Galliard Ensemble and Ashley Davies have worked together for many years and share an innate understanding of each other's work, effortlessly bringing their two mediums together.

The setting was a five week exhibition of 30 works by Davies, exploring urban imagery. *Afterleaf*, *Holy Ghosts* and *Saplings* all convey a sense of fragile beauty, while the animated piece *Lido Lock Lido* was accompanied in the gallery by a musical score, composed collaboratively, exploring urban waterways.

This exhibition space hosted drop-in work-shops, open musical rehearsals, concerts, special needs work-shops, family concerts, picnics and fun events exploring the many connections between art and music, all led by Davies and the Galliards throughout the residency.



Picture by
Eric Richmond

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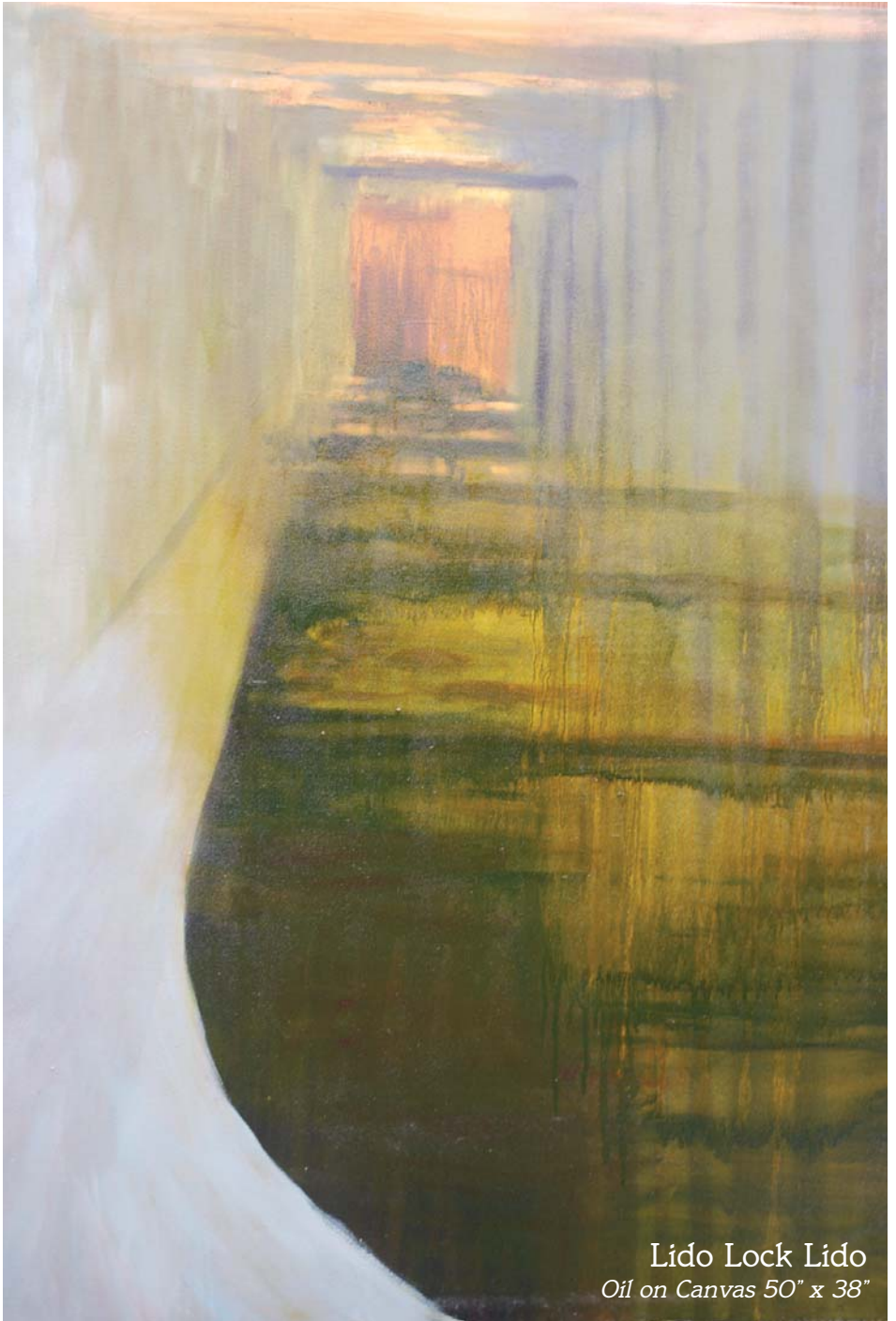
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Animation

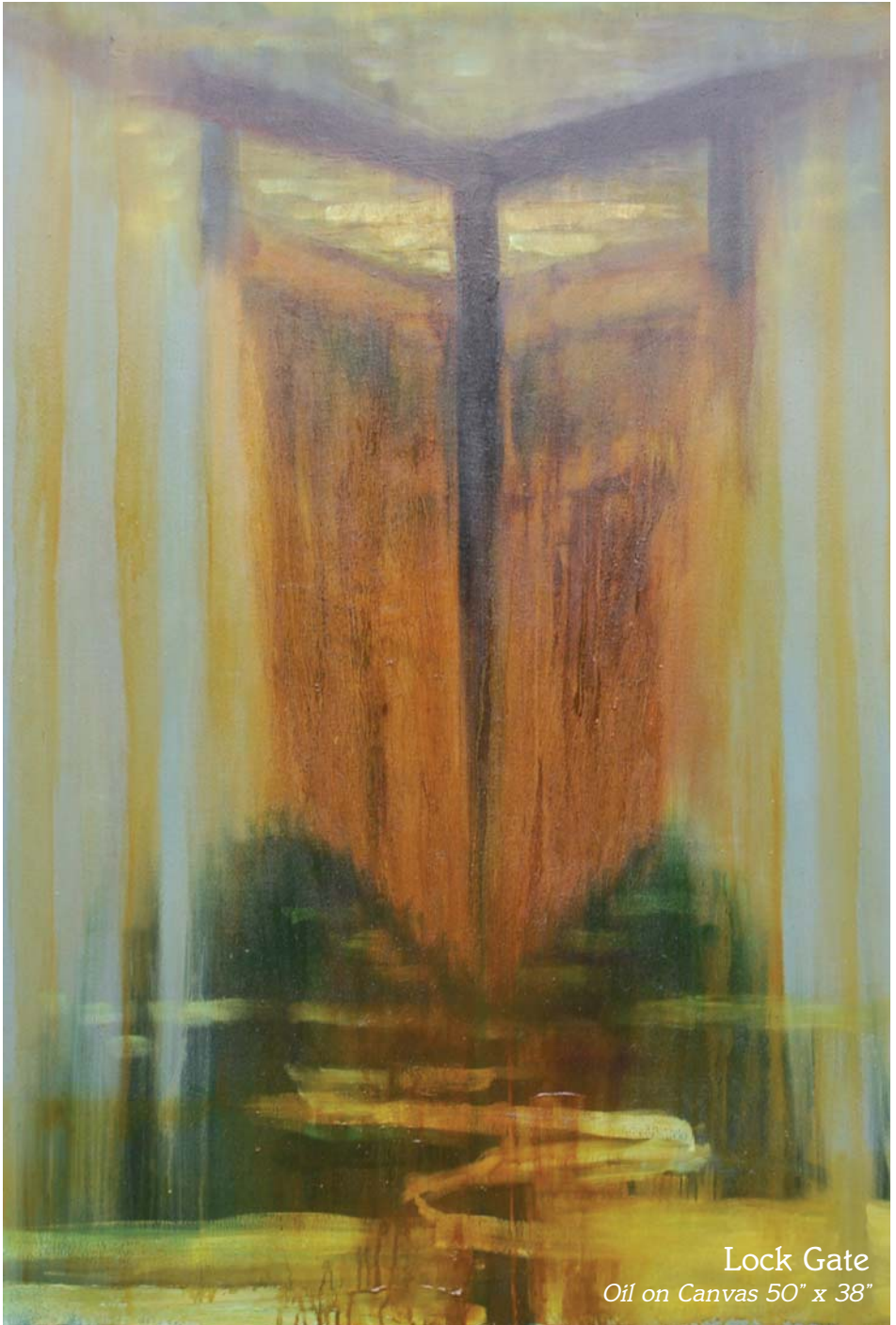
Lido Lock Lido, one of the 30 hung paintings, was animated from the first brush stroke to the last, with the animation displayed on continuous loop on a large flat-screen television. To accompany the moving picture, a piece of recorded music composed by the Galliard Ensemble together with the artist, was played in tandem with the animation.

To create this mixed-medium art piece, the animator chronicled the painting's creation. As this process progressed over six months, the musicians met regularly in the studio with Davies, to develop the musical score directly alongside the evolving painting. On completion of the painting the images were put together to form a free flowing stop-frame animation that played both forward and backwards; to this the Galliards recorded their final urban waterways-inspired piece of music.

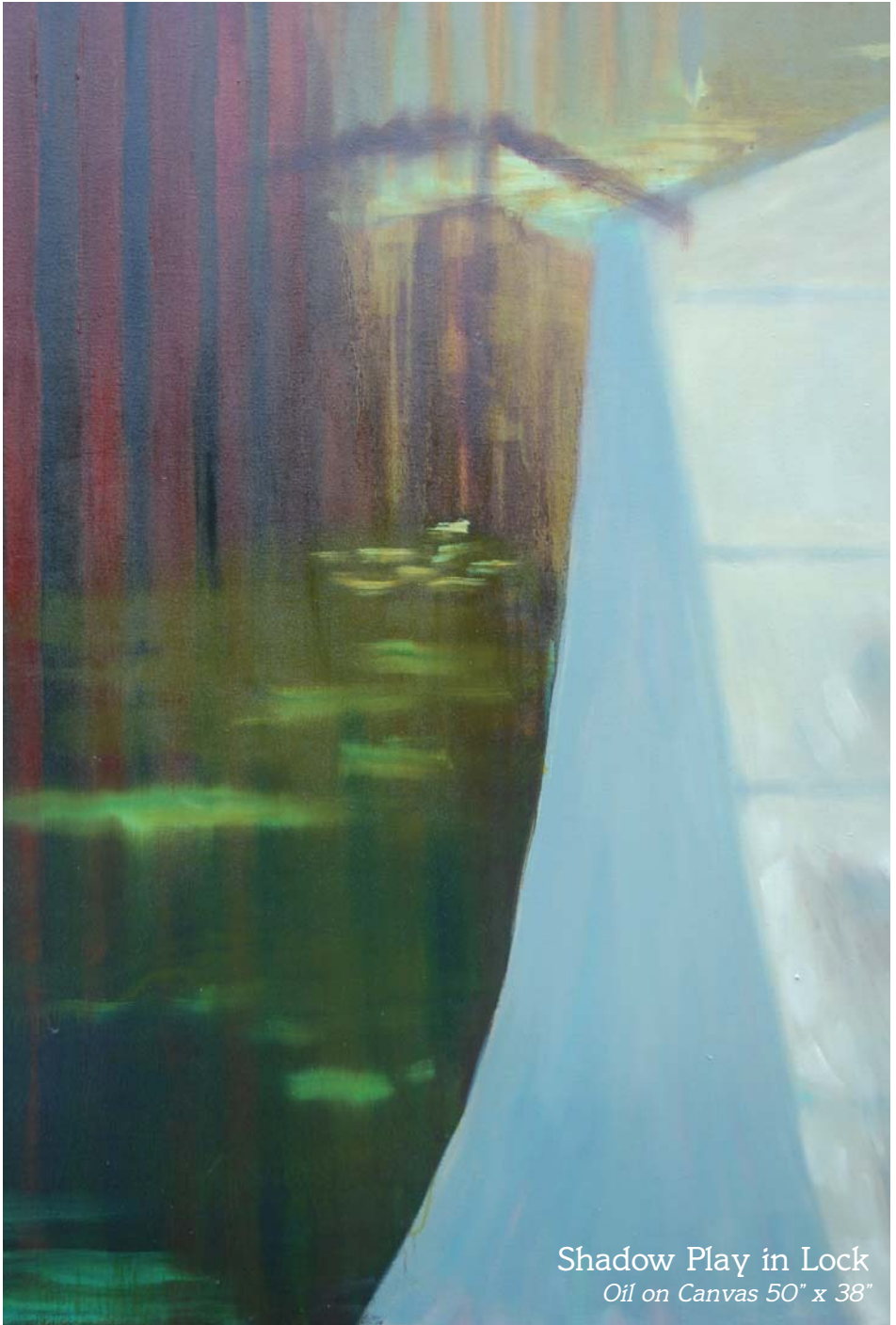
The final piece provides a fascinating insight into Davies' painting process and into how musical motifs inspire the rhythm and structure of her work.



Lido Lock Lido
Oil on Canvas 50" x 38"



Lock Gate
Oil on Canvas 50" x 38"



Shadow Play in Lock
Oil on Canvas 50" x 38"

Concert By the Galliard Ensemble

The local community were invited to come and watch a full recital given by the Galliard Ensemble wind quintet in the exhibition space. A broad range of classically-based music was presented in two 45 minute halves.

The programme began with Mozart's sublime *C minor quintet* then darted over to Arvo Part's serialist and rather tongue-in-cheek *Quintet*.

Central to the concert was a live performance directly improvised in response to the animation; other presented works were Nielsen's *Quintet* - a great masterpiece of the repertoire which draws on the characters of his musicians - and Barber's *Summer Music* in all its languid splendour, before landing home with the New Orleans jazz-inspired *Mississippi Five* by British composer Jim Parker.

The works were all picked in collaboration with the artist Davies, chosen as pieces that not only informed and inspired much of the exhibition, but that would also contrast and challenge the artwork.

As part of the preparations for this concert the musicians and Davies undertook open rehearsals in the exhibition space, inviting the general public and involving them in developing the musical score and improvisation to the animation.

The concert itself was a huge success; the exhibition space alive through art and music, with beauty, fun and laughter.







Art and Music Family Workshop

On a sunny Sunday morning Davies and the Galliards offered a family workshop as part of an entire day's open events in the exhibition space.

The workshop lasted two hours and was a continuous programme for children with adults to explore and create artwork inspired by sound.

The workshop catered for a wide range of ages, from babes-in-arms to 19-year-olds. Students came from mainstream schools as well as special needs schools in the local area. The Galliards and Davies effortlessly melded this diverse audience into one body, with many different parts all working together.

The session included more than 20 interactive games, in which the students produced paintings inspired by music, involving themes of colour, mood and rhythms. And involving such silliness as trumpeting elephants, clapping thunderbolts and fishing for rhythms with rods ... perhaps one had to be there!

Towards the end of the session the tables were turned and the musicians were put on the spot: students were invited to individually hold up their paintings, and the Galliards improvised a piece of music in response to each new artwork.

Suffice to say that a wonderful time was had by all. Opposite are some quotes participants made on our review questionnaires:





"What a wonderful way to spend a Sunday morning, Cultural, educational and inspirational."

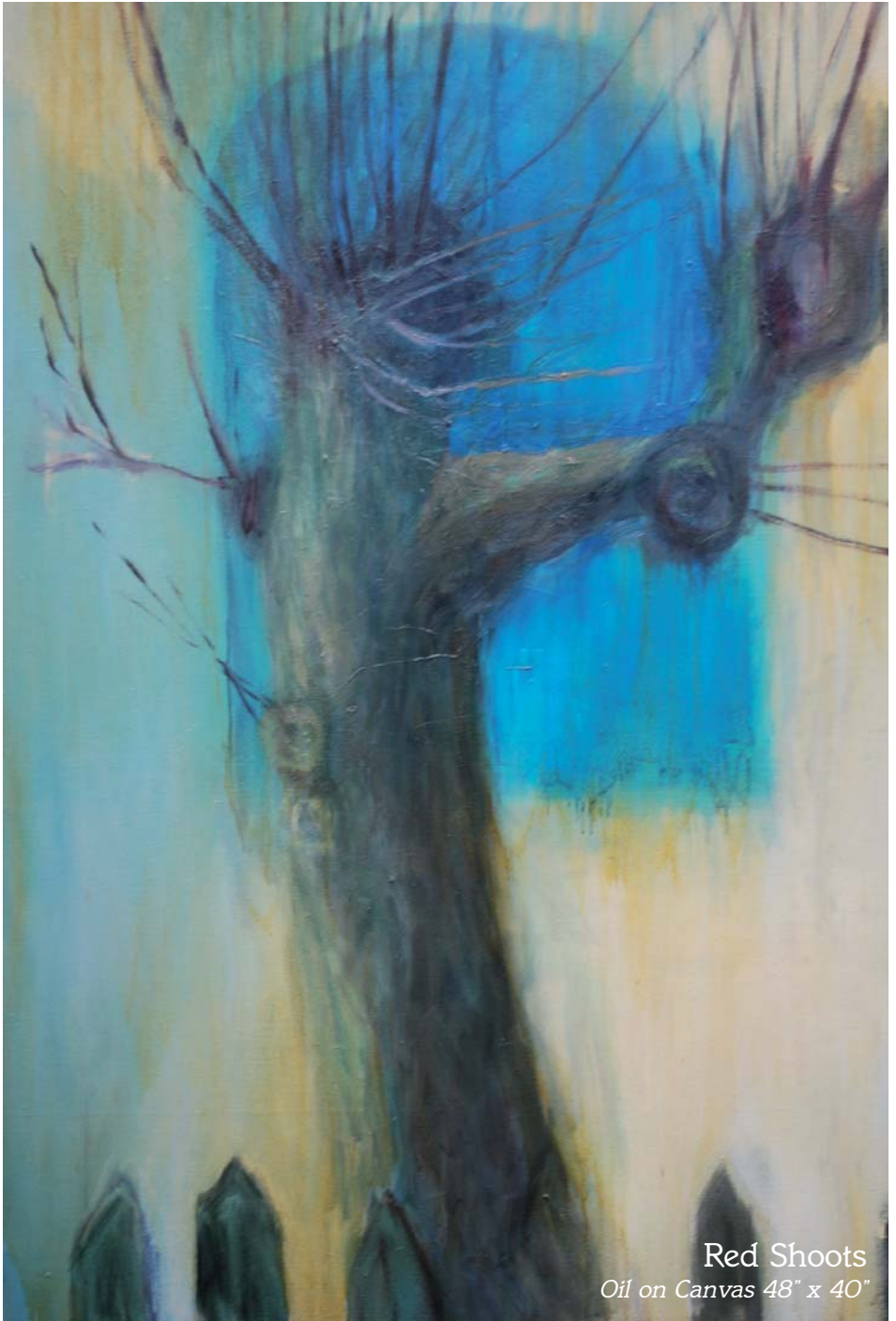
"Absolutely fantastic. Very novel ideas for children. Our child was entranced by the music and will never forget it!"



"Do this more often!"

"The music made me both happy and sad"





Red Shoots
Oil on Canvas 48" x 40"



Round Window Pollard
Oil on Canvas 30" x 30"



Pollard Overlooked
Oil on Canvas 30" x 30"

Octagon Club

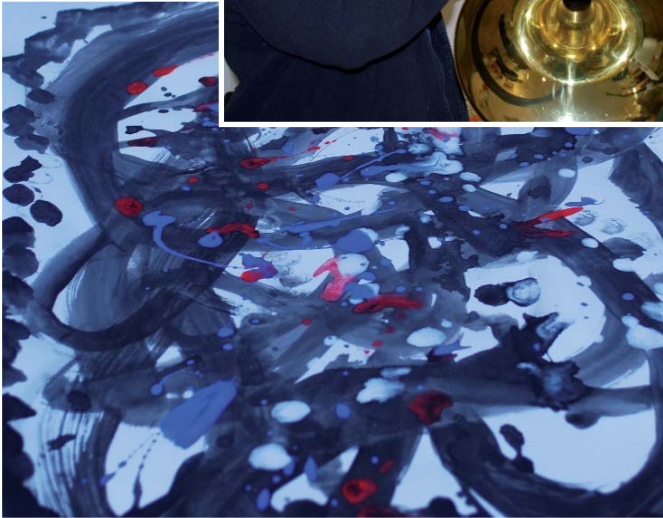
The Octagon Club is a special needs art group that meets weekly after school at the gallery. The students have a range of needs, from severe autism to profound and multiple learning difficulties.

Ashley Davies with the Galliard Ensemble were invited to lead a number of sessions during the residency. The focus of these sessions was to explore Davies' exhibited paintings through music, in a way that was relevant to the students.

Each week members of the Galliards would join Davies. The students would make choices between different types of sounds, fast or slow, loud or quiet, and choose shapes and colours to fit the sounds.

The artwork produced while listening quietly to the music in these sessions was often outstanding, with a great understanding of colour displayed in some hugely expressive pieces.

Artwork of the students and pictures of the Octagon Club



Afterleaf: Parthenocismus
Detail
Oil on Canvas 28" x 17"



Afterleaf: Pioneer
Oil on Canvas 16" x 10"



Afterleaf: St James
Oil on Canvas 16" x 10"



Afterleaf
Oil on Canvas 18" x 12"



Afterleaf: Pedestrian (Slab)
Oil on Canvas 12" x 12"

Galliard Ensemble

Flute - Clarinet - Oboe - Horn - Bassoon

Founded in 1993 at the Royal Academy of Music, the Galliard Ensemble has been firmly placed as one of Britain's leading chamber ensembles. Performances within the UK as well as in Europe have led to critical acclaim. Recitals in venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, Bridgewater Hall, The Sage and appearances in the BBC Proms, Cheltenham, City of London, and Bath festivals have shown captivating musicianship.

The Galliard Ensemble has received extensive coverage of its CD recordings nationally and internationally, including selection by the Sunday Times and Gramophone Magazine. BBC Music Magazine chose the group for its cover CD, and having participated in the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists Scheme the ensemble has enjoyed numerous broadcasts including a performance of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

A keen interest in contemporary quintet writing has resulted in the group working with Paul Patterson, Georgy Ligeti, Richard Rodney Bennett and Harrison Birtwistle. Devoted to reaching a wider audience, the Galliards have participated in the Live Music Now! scheme, taking their music to schools, youth workshops and hospitals.

"pure pleasure... This, in short, is wind quintet playing of great distinction... Strongly recommended."

Michael Oliver, Gramophone Magazine.

Ashley Davies

Ashley Davies was born in Leicestershire and studied BA Fine Art at Portsmouth Polytechnic followed by post graduate studies at The Royal Academy Schools.

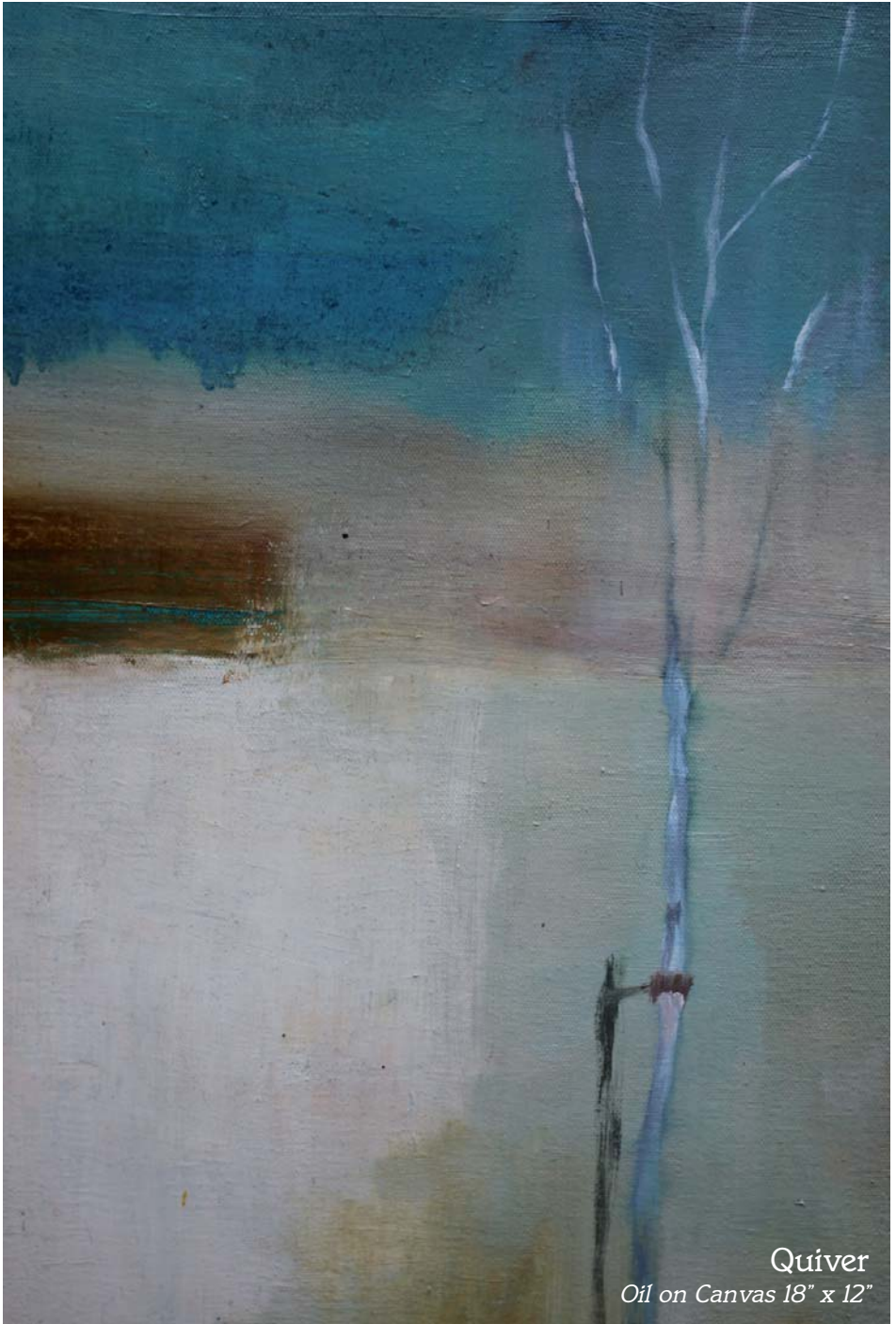
Davies has exhibited widely and her work is in numerous private collections. Recent collaborations with the Galliard Ensemble and sounds underground have resulted in shows at London's Bush Hall, The South Bank Centre and Stables Gallery at Orleans House.

Living in East London with her husband and three children, Davies divides her time between studio practice and work as an Artist Educator for The Courtauld Institute, Somerset House Trust, The V&A and The Hayward.

Davies has great commitment and passion for working with people with special educational needs and reaching as wide an audience as possible. This has informed her own work in the continued exploration of the evocative and communicative possibilities of visual language.



Coldlight Tourniquet
Oil on Canvas 22" x 16"



"Beyond the perfect synthesis of abstraction and figuration, beneath the layers of technical virtuosity, gentle works whisper and quietly beckon to reveal a timeless world"

Mark De Norelliss, Curator at Orleans House Gallery

"The Galliards and Davies were a pleasure to have in residency at the gallery. Their enthusiasm and professionalism resulted in one of the most dynamic and interactive projects that we have hosted!"

Rachel Tranter, Head of Art, Orleans House Gallery



Leaving so soon
Charcoal on Paper 13" x 9"

To see works in full from the exhibition please visit
www.ashleydavies.co.uk

For more information and bookings please contact
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