

JENNY RYRIE
ELEMENTAL LANGUAGE



A SOLO EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS
BY JENNY RYRIE RBSA

THE SALTHOUSE, NORWAY SQUARE, ST IVES, CORNWALL
26 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 2014

Jenny Ryrie R.B.S.A. is based in Chester but spends much of her time in Cornwall, painting the abstracted forms of rocks, headlands and shorelines interlocked with ocean and sky; the transcendental effects of sunlight and rain over moving water and the elusive interactions between land and sea.

This series of recent paintings searches deeper into the dynamics and substance of those natural energies, and the meaning to be found in their elemental qualities.

“My paintings are about the energies and poetry of the coastal landscape. I am moved by the underlying mystery of Nature, and the resonance between its powerful moods and our own human

emotions. We are fascinated by the constantly changing tides and weather, by the rolling drama both day and night of sky, sea and land, from the sweep of the ocean to intimate details of strandline and rock pools. Nature speaks to us but it can be an elusive language to translate; we feel but cannot articulate. Similarly an abstracted painting can be difficult to explain in words, but can be understood intuitively. The paintings in this exhibition use a vocabulary of colour, light and calligraphic line in an attempt to decipher the language of nature, to bring us closer to its spiritual rather than physical meaning. The creative process is for me an ongoing journey of how to break through invisible and metaphorical barriers of communication whether in Nature or in painting, or even between life and death.”

Themes of light, fluidity and translucency underlie the paintings, which are executed in water-based media on paper and canvas. Ryrie has specialised throughout her career in an experimental use of watercolour. She comes from a long line of watercolourists, including her great-great-great grandfather William Evans of Eton (1798-1877).

She studied at Edinburgh College of Art and University graduating with an M.A. in Fine Art in 1980. She has exhibited widely, from the Thackeray Gallery, London and Belgrave, St Ives to Canyon Road Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico and Ekaterinburg Museum of Fine Art, Russia. Between 2004 and 2006 her work appeared regularly with Castle Street Gallery, Hay-on-Wye during the Hay Literature Festival. In March 2015 she will be exhibiting at the *Ways with Words* Literature Festival at the Theatre By The Lake, Keswick.

Accompanying the exhibition is a series of poems by the artist. Their imagery is lyrical and intuitive, exploring the same elemental themes as the paintings, but through words rather than paint.

Jenny Ryrie R.B.S.A.

Exhibition presented by The Book Gallery St Ives