

McALLISTER THOMAS

PRESS RELEASE

DAVID ATKINS
RIVERS, ROCKS & MOUNTAINS
14 OCTOBER - 31 OCTOBER 2017

OPENING RECEPTION:
SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 10 AM

(WITH DRINKS)

DAVID ATKINS IN ATTENDANCE



An exhibition over eighteen months in the making culminates in a spectacular body of Italian work by one of the country's most renowned landscape painters, David Atkins.

David describes the show in its making:

'In late 2015 I was introduced to Romano Subiotto QC, a man passionate about his home village of Guardabosone and the Piedmont region of northern Italy. He was also keen to encourage a painter to visit, experience and eventually paint in this landscape. McAllister Thomas Fine Art had asked me 12 months earlier if I would like to be that artist. It seems madness to me now, but I politely declined the offer, twice, until I eventually met Romano who invited me to, 'just visit and take a look'. What could I lose?

So in mid September 2016, I flew to Milan to meet Romano and go to the places that so inspire him. For a week, in glorious autumn sunshine, I was driven around to see the lakes, islands, mountains, rivers, villages and forests of this region. I got to know my host a little more as he kindly answered my numerous questions, stopped the car at every moment I wanted to take a photograph and patiently waited as I made drawings and watercolours of as many locations as I could. I got to see and learn about people and places I wouldn't otherwise have discovered on my own. I felt very honoured and privileged.

I returned the following April, with my wife and youngest daughter to gather more drawings, ideas and information. I also had the chance to practice speaking the language and gain confidence in driving the 'Italian way'.

On a wet and windy day in early June, with a van loaded with paint and canvases, I headed for Italy. I spent a month there, painting every day, full of energy, excitement and ambition. This exhibition is a result of that special time I spent in the wonderful country of Italy'

The exhibition of Italian works will be accompanied by a number of David's latest works of Cornwall, Devon and his home county Dorset, which have been painted on his return from Europe.

About David Atkins:

David Atkins attended some of Britain's finest art schools including St. Martins School of Art and Winchester School of Art.

The tradition of landscape painting has always been at the heart of David's drawing and paintings. David works directly from the environment, often revisiting places many times and in ever changing weather and seasons. His paintings have been inspired by his immediate surroundings as well as his travels. Visits to New York, Europe, Ireland and Scotland have resulted in a series of larger paintings that also aim to capture something of the essence of place.

"David Atkins has established himself as an evocative painter of landscapes and, particularly, of the urban scene. His is a broad brush, the sweep and colour of it bold and clear, and he brings to the city the eye for transitory light and temperature and atmosphere that is more usually applied to rural landscape.

With him we explore cities, not always in the bright clear Kodak light of the Canaletto imitator, but at dawn and sunset and often in the damp truth of autumn and the tenebrous contrasts of the street at night; his is the sometimes sceptical eye of the honest observer, seeing London and Dublin, New York and Barcelona, as we have all experienced them."

Brian Sewell - Art Critic

Notes to editors:

The Opening Reception will be held on the Saturday 14 October 2017 and will be attended by painter David Atkins.

For press information on specific works in the exhibition, interviews, or high resolution images please contact the Gallery Director, Sue McAllister at press@mcallisterthomasfineart.co.uk or +(44) 1483 860591

About McAllister Thomas Fine Art

McAllister Thomas is a contemporary art gallery that works with exciting emerging and established artists. The gallery was founded in 2007 and is located in the market town of Godalming, Surrey. McAllister Thomas runs an on-going calendar of exhibitions throughout the year. The diversity and quality of original works exhibited has earned the gallery an enviable reputation with new and existing collectors.

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