



CYNTHIA CORBETT GALLERY  
presents

# TALES FROM THE NORTH

*Contemporary Painting  
from the Glasgow School*

Elaine Woo MacGregor - *Between film takes - Audrey on the set for Green Mansions, MGM Studios, 2023*, acrylic on linen  
85 x 120 cm, 33 1/2 x 47 1/4 in.  
Private Collection

An exhibition of works by Alastair Gordon & Elaine Woo MacGregor

31st May - 15 June 2024 *Coinciding with London Gallery Weekend*

Gallery 67, York Street, Marylebone, London, W1H 1QB

Cynthia Corbett Gallery proudly presents an exhibition of recent works by two of the UK's most exciting painters, Alastair Gordon and Elaine Woo MacGregor. The exhibition will take place in the year of the Gallery's 20th anniversary, two decades on from one of the Gallery's first exhibitions 'Young, Female and Scottish' which also featured work by Woo MacGregor.

This exhibition features recent and new works by both artists, exploring the intersection of painting and narrative, both personal and deeply immersed in the context of art history. Both Gordon and Woo MacGregor hail from Scotland, and trained at the prestigious Glasgow School of Art.

The exhibition includes a series of Alastair Gordon's extraordinary, meticulous illusionistic

paintings that explore the possibilities of 'quodlibet', a form of trompe l'oeil that proliferated in 17th Century Northern Europe. Quodlibet (a Latin word meaning 'whatever you please').

Elaine Woo MacGregor's work is engaged with the processes of making, and the narrative and imaginative possibilities of painting. Combining mark making and imagery, she weaves together atmospheric and theatrical stories. Brushstrokes and areas of colour have a free-flowing placement interjected with deliberate acts of drawing and mark making.

Together, the work of Alastair Gordon and Elaine Woo MacGregor offers an exciting view of contemporary painting today, viewed through the lens of art history and the poetics of identity.

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## ABOUT ALASTAIR GORDON



Alastair Gordon - *Fragmented Landscape*, 2024, oil and acrylic on canvas  
56 x 76 cm, 22 x 30 in.

Alastair Gordon is best known for highly illusionistic paintings (rooted in the quodlibet tradition) but he combines his heightened sense of realism with historical notions of intuitive wildness and British wilderness painting. Gordon makes paintings about paintings; works that oscillate between artifact and artifice. We are presented with landscapes as still lives and sketches as completed works. Certain questions emerge about authenticity, the painting process and how we consider notions of landscape today. The veracity of the object is constantly in doubt yet the wild is ever calling.

In making his works Gordon travelled to the outer reaches of the British Isles, undertaking a painting pilgrimage from the heights of the Lake District, depths of Caithness peat flows and furthest reaches of the Outer Hebrides.

Alastair Gordon is a London based artist and tutor and a course leader for the Graduate Residency Scheme at Leith School of Art, Edinburgh. Last year, Alastair was artist in residency for City and Guilds of London Art School followed by a parallel residency with PADA Studios in Lisbon. He studied for a BA(hons) in Fine Art Painting at Glasgow School of Art, graduating in 2002. He later studied MA Fine Art at Wimbledon School of Art in 2012.

Alastair's solo exhibitions include Quodlibet, Aleph Contemporary, UK (2021), Without Borders, Aleph Contemporary, UK, (2020). Alastair was the inaugural winner of the Shoosmiths Painting Prize in 2014 and co-recipient of the Dentons Art Prize. Alastair's first solo museum exhibition opens at An Lanntair Art Gallery, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis in late May 2024.

Gordon's work is found in numerous prominent private and public collections including Beth Rudin DeWoody, New York; Simmons and Simmons, London; Ahmanson Collection, Los Angeles; Landmark PLC, London; Bow Arts Trust, London; The Royal Bank of Scotland Collection, Rudolph Blume Foundation, Houston, Texas, and The Glasgow School of Art Alumni Collection.

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## ABOUT ELAINE WOO MACGREGOR

MacGregor's artistry offers a unique perspective, encompassing a fusion of cultures. Through her eclectic use of mark making and imagery, she weaves together atmospheric and theatrical narratives. While her painted stories may often be fictitious, they are rooted in real people, places, and objects.

Elaine Woo MacGregor is a Scottish-born, Chinese artist who trained at the Glasgow School of Art. She graduated in 2003 with a bachelor's degree with honours, acquired a studio and began working as a full-time artist.

MacGregor's first solo exhibition was Portraits in Glasgow. Recent exhibitions include her solo exhibition Maman et Muses' Patrio Hall Gallery, Edinburgh (2023), Art on a Postcard, Fitzrovia Gallery, London (2023), Women in Art Fair, Mall Galleries, London (2023), ING Discerning Eye, Mall Galleries, London (2023), Art Miami, USA (2023), Expo Chicago, USA (2023). Notably, MacGregor was selected for Platform 2023 at the London Art Fair in Reframing the Muse, an exhibition curated by Ruth Millington, showing with The Cynthia Corbett Gallery.

MacGregor's work has been critically recognised and in 2022, she was a finalist in the Jackson's Painting Prize, received the Art Paisley Prize, and Velvet Easel Award. In 2023, she was awarded the RSA Blackadder Houston Mid-Career Travel Award. She will be travelling to Hong Kong and Shanghai for art research in 2024.

Woo MacGregor's work is in British and international museum collections including Atkinson Art Gallery and Museum, UK, Art Gallery of South Australia, and 21C Museum and Hotel, USA, Rudolph Blume Foundation, Houston, Texas, and Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland.



Elaine Woo MacGregor - *Matisse sketching a portrait of Françoise*, 2024, acrylic on linen  
100 x 100 cm, 39 1/4 x 39 1/4 in.

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Alastair Gordon - *Silver Birches, Wimbledon Common*, 2024, oil and acrylic on canvas  
56 x 76 cm, 22 x 30 in.

An exhibition of works by Alastair Gordon & Elaine Woo MacGregor

31st May - 15 June 2024

Open daily, 11am – 6pm, (Sunday 12pm – 5pm)

Opening Reception, coinciding with London Gallery Weekend: 31 May 2024, 6 – 8.30pm

[RSVP here](#)

Finissage: 15 June 2024, 1 – 5pm

[RSVP here](#)

*Cynthia Corbett Gallery*

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All works are available for sale. Please contact [sales@thecynthiacorbettgallery.com](mailto:sales@thecynthiacorbettgallery.com) for availability, or scan the QR code here:



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