

Press Release

George Rowlett

Walmer and the Garden of Sarah Price

New Paintings

30 May - 29 June 2019

[View the Exhibition Catalogue on-line](#)

[Watch the Video of George Rowlett painting in the Garden of Sarah Price](#)

Art Space Gallery is delighted to present an exhibition of new paintings by George Rowlett featuring works made in the garden of the award-winning garden designer Sarah Price alongside paintings from his own garden, studio still lifes and the landscapes and seascapes of the shoreline and downs of East Kent close to his studio in Walmer. The works from Sarah Price's garden were made during the summer of 2018 when he accepted the invitation to paint in her garden; a stay that offered him the opportunity to work every day and the freedom to set up his boards anywhere he chose within her walled space and paint the rich variety of colour and forms that confronted him. What emerged was a substantial body of work most of which will go on show in the [Garden Museum](#) in London during June and July this year.

Throughout a long career of painting *en plein air*, George Rowlett has balanced the challenges of cycling off with boards as large as 4 feet across and three litres of paint to record his experiences out in the landscape with the desire to stay closer to home and paint the more intimate subjects found in his own garden. In the fields or on the beach it is the structure of the land and the nuances of the weather



and light that he strives to record; in the garden it is the magic of colour. Sometimes it's a particular plant that is singled out; at other times it's the thrilling combinations of colours that are thrown up by Nature.



Sarah Price's garden is her workshop and laboratory. It is where she experiments and develops her approach to garden design that has been rewarded with commissions to work on the design of London's Olympic Park and gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show. It is a modern and iconoclastic approach and it presented George Rowlett with an unfathomable array of shapes, textures and colour scattered in a free-flowing form that is more wild meadow than formal garden; a place where nature's own rhythms and accidents are encouraged and then edited and carefully harmonised into carefree unity. A process very like the way George Rowlett constructs his paintings as an accumulation of gestural marks made in response to events as they unfold before

him.

This exhibition represents the full range and diversity of George Rowlett's output and highlights the technical ingenuity and invention in the handling of paint. Bold swathes of the material are enlivened with a mastery of touch and woven into rich orchestrations of colour that are a celebration of sustained spontaneity that captures fleeting moment in an ever-changing subject and unleashes his ability to employ colour so brilliantly.

Born in Troon on the West Coast of Scotland in 1941, George Rowlett attended Camberwell School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools. He has work in public and private collections worldwide and this exhibition marks the 25th anniversary of a long and fruitful association with Art Space Gallery

To mark the occasion a 24 page catalogue with 15 colour plates and an essay by John Lahr has been published; hard copies are available from the gallery.

Gallery hours 11am to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday