



REBECCA
HOSSACK

ART GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

Louise Sturgis

Be still and know that I am here

16 November - 16 December 2023



Louise Sturgis, *Hartrigg I*, 2023, oil on canvas, 90.x 120 cm

The Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery presents *Be still and know that I am here*, an exhibition of paintings by Louise Sturgis.

'The paintings in this show are about my return to a landscape that I have felt rooted in and inspired by all my life. They are an attempt to distill the physical, emotional and spiritual experience of being in a landscape that I have loved and carried in me as I have lived and worked and painted elsewhere... It was this landscape that inspired me to be an artist.'

The landscape to which Sturgis has returned is the Kentmere valley in the Lake District. It is still a remote place, of dry-stone walls, of rugged fells, of working hill-farmers and white-washed farmhouses. It is a landscape which Sturgis has known, and been part of, all her life.

'This is the place where I first experienced the numinous beauty of the world and recognised that this beauty comes to us as much through the crackling roughness of the lichen on a stone, the damp smell of a wooden gate or the mournful sound of the ewes bleating for their lambs at dusk, as from the golden light and the majestic fells.'

Sturgis, in her deep engagement with the land and its life, combined her art-studies with learning how to tend the sheep that - over the centuries - have done so much to create and mould this landscape. She learnt the skills of shepherding here; and went on to work as a shepherd in Iceland, Scotland, and west Cumbria.



Louise Sturgis in the studio

Sturgis's art is imbued with this deep sense of connection. Her paintings evolve from small plein-air sketches that are then built up into richly layered compositions. Surface colour is informed by contrasted underpainting. They are not topographical records of place but the distillations of experience.

Louise Sturgis trained at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford, and the Royal Academy Schools in London, where she won a Silver Medal for painting. She was a recipient of a Norwegian Government scholarship which allowed her to work for a year in Oslo. Her work has been exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts, and the National Portrait Gallery, London. She has had one-person exhibitions in London, Oxford, Oslo and Bergen. She lives and works in Kentmere where she has recently established a teaching-studio.

About the Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery:

The Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery is a contemporary art gallery challenging trends. Over the course of three decades the gallery has built an international reputation for innovation, individuality, energy and excellence. Rebecca Hossack has been a great champion of non-Western artistic traditions, and hers was the first art gallery in Europe to exhibit Australian Aboriginal painting, which it continues to promote.



Louise Sturgis, *Across the Mere I*, 2023, oil on canvas, 76 x 61 cm

Listings information:

Be still and know that I am here.
4 - 25 November 2023
Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery,
2a Conway Street, Fitzroy Square,
London, W1T 6BA
Free admission

For press enquiries:

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Gallery opening times:

Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm
Closed Sunday