

Rachel's work explores the female figure set within gardens, woodlands and wild spaces. Her imagery, taken from observation, imagination and myriad visual sources is informed by her love of mythology, poetry, spiritual writings and art history.

This exhibition of new work presented at Next Door Hextable was partly inspired by Piero del Pallaiuolo's painting of 1470, 'Apollo and Daphne', along with a body of Rachel's own research, undertaken at The Gladstone Library near Chester into legends surrounding the life of Mary Magdalene, and a volume of Wendell Berry's poetry, 'The Peace of Wild Things' (1964). Rachel's recent move from urban central London to the rural Cotswolds has begun to inform some of the imagery in her work.

With qualifications in English Literature, Fine Art, Art Education and Art History, she is equally excited by investigating her ideas and exploring the potential of mark-making materials. She feels compelled to question the power dynamics at play in the roles assigned to women in myths and legends and she delights in reimagining how these characters could be represented.

In 2021 Rachel was happy to sell a body of her work online for 'Maggie's Cancer Charity', in 2020 she was involved in 'Charleston Inspires Artists', an auction which raised valuable funds to help keep Charleston Farmhouse open to the public, in 2018 she exhibited her textile work at Chelsea Old Town Hall in London and in 2014 she presented a large scale installation in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Rachel looks forward to beginning her Art History PhD at the Open University in Autumn 2022.

'Set within dreamlike spaces that evoke gardens, woodlands and other wild arenas, Rachel Williamson manages to evoke a sense of mythic poeticism with her paintings of female figures. Imbued with a strong knowledge of art history, these works give one a sense of a personal psychic space and a feeling of the collective female experience. They evoke layered reactions from the viewer. The vibrant swathes of colour conjure a hypnotising world of dreams, and the unreal, seductive layers of paint that mirror the description of fruits in Christina Rossetti's poem 'Goblin market' bring about ideas of temptation. The paintings take you into their dense and subtle well drawn out worlds.'

- Melissa Kime 2022. BA (Hons) Fine Art Falmouth, MA Painting RCA, Royal Drawing School Alumnus and Faculty Member.

 @rachelwilliamsonartist

[#NextDoorHextable](#)



Rachel Williamson Holding Hand and Leaf

27 May - 9 July 2022

Opening reception: 5-7pm, 27 May

Aurora, 2022. Mono screen print, chalk pastel, oil pastel, graphite. 45cm x 32cm. £180

Pathway, 2021-22 Lino print, chalk pastel. 56cm x 45cm. £175. 4 others in mounts, unframed £125

Courage Even as Dusk Falls, 2022. Cyanotype, watercolour, chalk pastel. 45cm x 32cm. £180

Air and Water, 2022. Ink, watercolour, chalk pastel, oil pastel. 55cm x 45cm. £270

Holding, 2022. Mono screen print, ink, oil pastel, watercolour. 45cm x 32cm. £240

Beautiful Journey, 2022. Wax, watercolour, chalk pastel, oil pastel. 57cm x 45cm. £320

Afternoon Light, 2022. Watercolour, oil pastel, collage. 43cm x 43cm. £240

Story, 2022. Watercolour. 44cm x 40cm. £275

The Secret of the Forest, 2022. Watercolour, chalk pastel, oil pastel. 50cm x 69cm. £320

Transformation (Daphne), 2022. Watercolour, chalk pastel, oil pastel. 72cm x 78cm. £355

All Things, 2022. Watercolour, chalk pastel. 43cm x 34cm. £190

Nocturne II, 2020-2022. Cyanotype, gouache. 145cm x 105cm. £1,100

Nocturne III, 20220-2022. Cyanotype, gouache. 145cm x 105cm. £1,100

Walking Home, 2022. Watercolour, chalk pastel. 41cm x 30cm. £180

The Dream, 2022. Cyanotype, watercolour, chalk pastel, oil pastel. 49cm x 40cm. £250

Gentle Journey, 2022. Cyanotype, chalk pastel. 49cm x 36cm. £250

Party Hat, 2022. Watercolour, chalk pastel, oil pastel, watercolour pencil, collage. 42cm x 49cm. £270

The Encounter, 2022. Watercolour, chalk pastel, watercolour pencil. 50cm x 43cm. £260

Red Chair, 2020. Acrylic, gouache. 74cm x 94cm. £480

Eloise, 2020. Acrylic, oil paint, oil stick. 66cm x 80 cm. £780

Heart of My Own Heart, 2022. Acrylic, oil pastel, oil stick. 94cm x 79cm. £920

Persephone, 2022. Watercolour, oil pastel, oil stick. 50cm x 42cm. £260

Hey, Angel, 2020. Acrylic, oil, oil stick. 80cm x 65cm. £780

Bloom, 2022. Watercolour, chalk pastel, oil pastel, oil stick. 96cm x 74cm. £840

Re: Creation, 2020. Acrylic, oil, oil stick. 107cm x 138cm. £1,800

Measurements indicate height first followed by width. Prices include framing.
Any purchase enquiries should be directed to Sue Haward: by email at office@stph.org.uk



www.nextdoorhextable.org.uk