

**JULIAN COOPER*****Upstream***

New Paintings

**Private View 27 April, Thursday 6-8 pm**

28 April – 26 May 2017

[View Exhibition Catalogue on-line](#)*Force Crag Mine, 2017; oil on canvas, 112 x 214 cm.*

Titled 'Upstream', this exhibition of **Julian Cooper's** new paintings take as their subject the high fells above Crummock Water and Buttermere in the Lake District National Park, close to his home in Cockermouth and will run concurrently with a major retrospective exhibition at Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Julian Cooper's** paintings normally involve close encounters with barren and inhospitable places and for over four decades he has visited some of the most hostile and awe-inspiring terrain on the planet: the Andes, Himalayas, Alps, Tibet, Carrara and Tasmania and made paintings that do justice to nature at its wildest. But his native Lake District is the bedrock of his practice; his true territory. He was born there, learnt it slowly and has a strong desire to reach beyond mere appearance and uncover the underlying structure and the essence of the place: paintings that tell a particular story about the history of its appearance and the processes of change.

Walking, climbing, and looking, **Cooper** immerses himself completely in the language of rock, earth, water, trees, light and space. In 'Upstream' he explores the very surface of a land shaped by the mountain streams that feed the regions lakes. In painting after painting he traces the tributaries upwards beyond the last stone walls into the wild country where the becks and the streams originate. He also sees a once familiar landscape ever more threatened and inadequately served by those who use it; a landscape now made political by contentious claims that the widespread flooding that has twice devastated Cockermouth is a direct result of poor water management and the traditional hill-farming practices.

These are **Cooper's** meditations on the place of his birth. A landscape that holds a physical beauty and a wealth of memorable experiences from a lifetime of watching, thinking and learning about the natural world. Seen together they capture the spectacular character of the place but through **Julian Cooper's** eyes it is landscape in its many layered existence.

**Julian Cooper** studied at Lancaster School of Art (1964-65), Goldsmith's College of Art (1965) and in 1969 was awarded the Boise Travelling Scholarship and was resident at the British School in Rome (1994-95). He has work in public and private collections worldwide, has exhibited regularly in London at Art Space Gallery since 1998, had a major retrospective at Museo Nazionale Della Montagna, Turin and was included in *A Picture of Britain* at Tate.

A. catalogue with 18 full colour plates and essay by **Andrew Lambirth** is available.  
To obtain a hard copy please contact the Gallery.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm

***Julian Cooper: Paintings from 1970 to 2017*** at Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, 7 April - 2 July 2017  
For further information contact *Liz Moss*, [lmoss@lakelandarts.org.uk](mailto:lmoss@lakelandarts.org.uk)