

PRESS RELEASE



GEORGE ROWLETT

Gardens and Flowers

Paintings 2014

31 October – 28 November 2014

[View Exhibition Catalogue on-line](#)

Left:

Forget-me-nots, Marigolds and Spanish Daisies, Morning Light 1,
2014 Oil on board, 24 x 30 ins / 61 x 76.2 cm

This exhibition showcases George Rowlett's garden paintings which, alongside his well-known River Thames and Kent subjects, can be regarded as central to his practice today.

For over 20 years Rowlett has harvested flower subjects from his garden in Walmer, Kent, which, by his own admission, is a small, overgrown space, teeming with blossoms and buds. A site of perpetual change – growth, bloom, decay and rebirth – this constrained, lush environment serves as a living model across the seasons.

Flowers are seen by the artist in intense, close proximity, and either painted in situ, in direct natural light, or within the studio as selected, lone sprigs and bouquets – still lifes staged in curious vases and jars. He paints these with an energetic vigour that would befit large-scale bravura landscapes, thereby eschewing the fastidious scrutiny of traditional botanical painting. Emotion drives each impasto gesture, applied broadly and swiftly. In his material celebration of paint, Rowlett supplants the delicacy and mediation of the brush with more direct, visceral tools: palette knives, spatulas, scrapers and the most intuitive instrument of all, his fingers.

These spirited works are momentary glimpses of glowing, full bloom, and in their lustrous sensuality they express the wonder and verve of George Rowlett's garden encounters. For him, garden subjects are defined by "the joy of being there; the magical to and fro of light on birds and blossom".

Born in Troon, Scotland, George Rowlett trained at Camberwell (1962-65) and the Academy Schools (1965-68) and has work in private and public collections in the U.S.A, Germany, South Africa and the UK, including the British Council.