

PHANTASMAGORIA

PJ THOMSON

PREVIEW EVENING
5PM-8PM FRIDAY
26TH SEPTEMBER

EXHIBITION RUNS UNTIL 11 OCTOBER, WEEKDAYS 12PM – 6PM & SATURDAYS 10AM – 3PM

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Phantasmagoria

Chris Clifford BA (Hons) MA – Gallery Director

The artist PJ Tomson's practice exists in the space between waking and dreaming. In many ways it is a phantasmagorical exploration of shape, colour, and space. Loosely rooted in Jersey's landscapes and flora, the work merges external reality with fragmented, subconscious imagery. Influences range from Sir Claude Francis Barry and Paul McCarthy to Wassily Kandinsky and Hermann Rorschach, particularly in their investigations of perception, distortion and the subconscious.

Clearly much of the artist's process of making his art feels instinctive, even ritualistic as the artist draws directly onto paper with a scalpel, hand-cutting old photocopier waste without prior planning. Forms emerge organically, guided by the movement of the blade and the texture of the materials and at times, it feels like an external energy is taking the artist forward.

The end results are silhouettes, often softened and abstracted, act as mirrors: viewers gravitate toward shapes and colour combinations that stir memory, emotion, or mood.

Photography collected during long walks through Jersey's woodlands and coastline feeds this world, dissolving into abstraction. The artists process is grounded in silkscreen printing, though far from conventional as he applies hand-cut paper stencils—fragile, impermanent tools that break down after only a few pulls. This ephemeral quality drives a continual dialogue between destruction and regeneration, allowing layers to accumulate, erode, and resurface.

Material experimentation is as central to his work as image-making and the artist manipulate surfaces through sanding and pressure washing techniques to blur and distort, revealing ghostly afterimages of past layers.

The substrate, often found wood or discarded boards, holds its own history, further blurring the line between the real and imagined.

Text occasionally threads through the work—poetic fragments like “queer divine,” “maybe in another lifetime,” and lines borrowed from Björk’s B-side Charlene, forming a kind of lullaby for the subconscious. These phrases act as portals or incantations, alluding to longing, multiplicity, and alternate realities formed through desire and memory. Watching over these dreamscapes is Tlazolteotl, the Aztec goddess of fertility, filth, and forgiveness.

She represents both the power of creation and the darker edges of lust, a sacred protector who acknowledges and purifies human desire. Her presence binds the erotic and the sacred, the subconscious and the divine.

Ultimately PJ Thomson’s work is a negotiation between control and surrender, material and memory, the physical and the liminal, a space where colour hums, shapes flicker and meaning slips just out of reach.

Perhaps more than anything this exhibition is filled with colour, light and joy so I hope you enjoy the experience and add that joyousness into your collection.

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Peter John Thomson

Multidisciplinary Artist | Educator

Born and raised on the Island of Jersey, Peter John Thomson's work is deeply intertwined with the rhythms of nature, the subconscious, and the intangible space between waking and dreaming. His practice, spanning printmaking, textiles, and ceramics, is informed by a lifelong fascination with colour and pattern, ritual, mythology, pagan symbolism and nature, especially the ever-shifting landscapes of his island home.

A neurodiverse learner in an era that failed to recognise such differences, Thomson found solace in art first through refuge then through the sheer joy of making. After leaving school, he began an apprenticeship at the renowned Jersey Pottery, where he honed his skills in ceramics over seven years, eventually managing the public-facing studio. This early experience in both craftsmanship and teaching would go on to shape his future path.

Following time spent travelling and working in the care sector—an experience that profoundly deepened his perspective on inclusivity and

human connection—Thomson returned to education, completing an art foundation before earning a BSc in Textile Design for Fashion and Interiors from Huddersfield University, achieving a first-class degree. It was here that he cemented his passion for printmaking, particularly silk-screen techniques and embroidery, refining a process-driven approach that remains integral to his practice today.

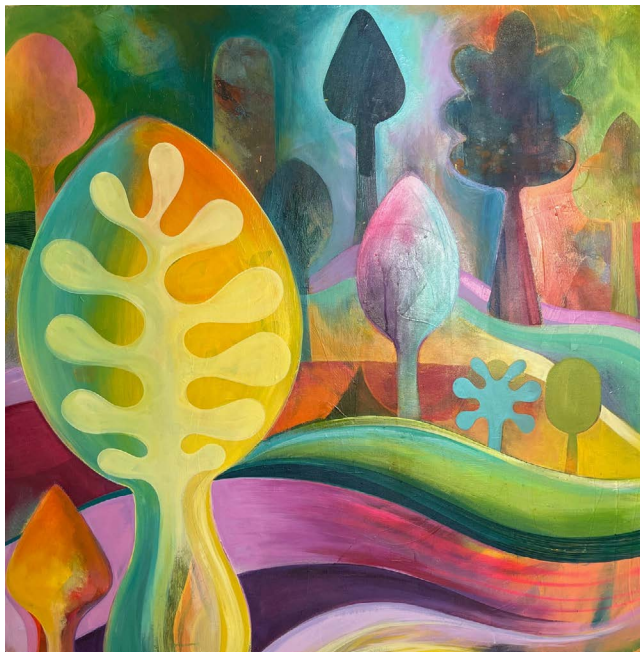
Returning to Jersey, Thomson balanced his artistic career with teaching, first as a visiting lecturer, then as a full-time educator, eventually leading the Art and Design Department at Highlands College. Though he thrived in shaping creative learning, his passion remained in making, in process, in the act of creation itself. Stepping back from management, he returned to teaching and making, reclaiming the space to fully engage with his studio practice.

A dedicated and hard working artist, Thomson has exhibited widely, with five solo exhibitions showcasing his evolving exploration of abstraction, colour, and form.

His work, often driven by process rather than strict preconception, embraces impermanence—hand-cut stencils disintegrate, layers are built up and then stripped away, surfaces are distressed with sanders and pressure hoses to reveal spectral remnants of past marks. Colour is not merely applied but negotiated with, challenged, pushed to its limits in a constant interplay of intuition and theory.

His commitment to making has earned recognition including winning the prestigious JJ Fox International Art Competition in 2022, affirming his place among Jersey's leading contemporary artists. Yet, for Thomson, the true reward is the act itself—the ongoing conversation between material, memory, and meaning.

Recurring themes in his work include his deep connection to nature, lunar symbolism, mythological narratives, and queer sensibilities. His art exists in the liminal space between past and present, real and imagined, science and mysticism—a deeply personal yet universally resonant exploration of existence.



Phantasmagoria
125cm x 125cm
Canvas
£4,000 +GST

Le Temps S'égare
39cm x 65cm
Board
£700 +GST





Dwell
75cm x 65cm
Paper
£800 +GST



Sous Les Brumes (under the mists)
58cm x 74cm
Canvas
£800 +GST



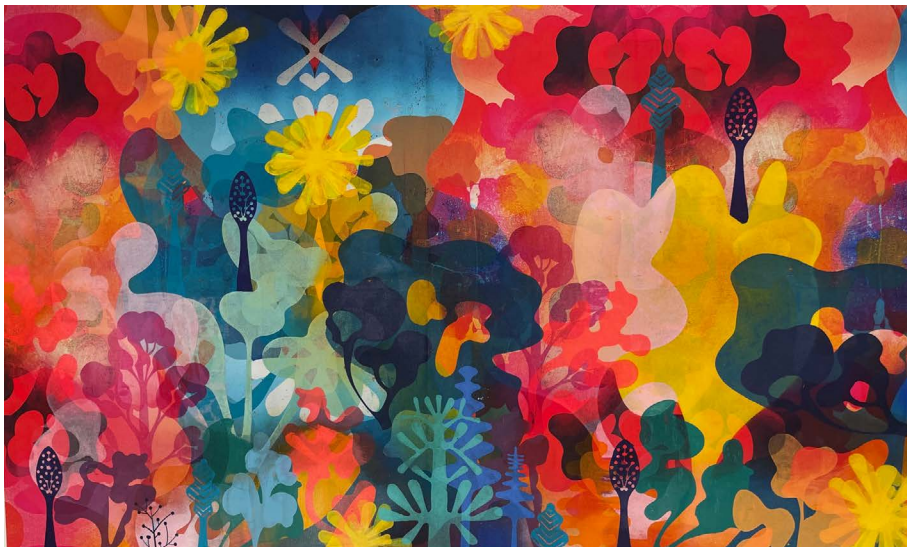
Cosmic Botanic
58cm x 74cm
Paper
£800 +GST



Doussiéth
74cm x 58cm
Paper
£800 +GST



Everything Melts When You're Not Looking
76cm x 63cm
Paper
£800 +GST



Landscapes on Mars
150cm x 97cm
Canvas
£6,000 +GST



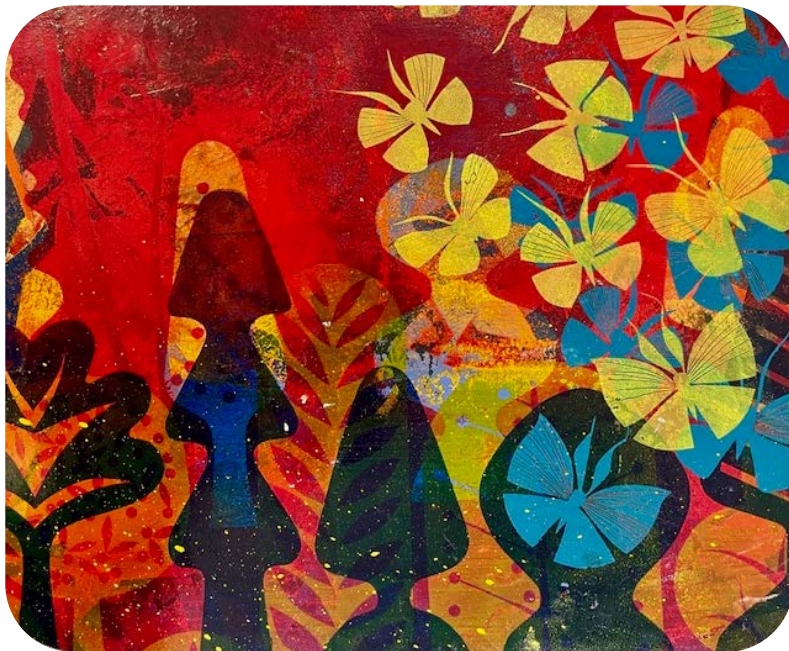
Offerings
41cm x 61cm
Board
£800 +GST

Sous Les Brumes
69cm x 41cm
Board
£950 +GST





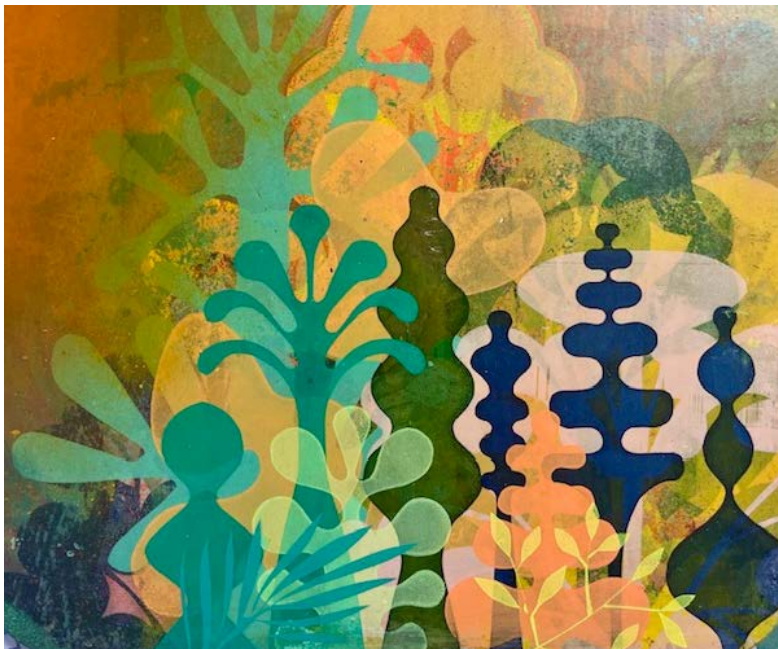
Lunar Fog
29cm x 36cm
Board
£500 +GST



Midnight Vermilion
39cm x 32cm
Board
£500 +GST



Wanderlure
62cm x 60cm"
Board
£900 +GST



Verdle
31cm x 36cm
Board
£500 +GST



Dawning
30cm x 46cm
Board
£500 +GST



Curious in the Dark
28cm x 57cm
Board
£600 +GST



Held by the Trees, Left by the Tide
66cm x 31cm
Board
£850 +GST



This Isn't the Path I Dreamed, But It's Beautiful
43cm x 59cm
Board
£900 +GST



Eden
80cm x 24cm
Board
£1,000 +GST



Lichen and Lune
41cm x 44cm
Board
£700 +GST



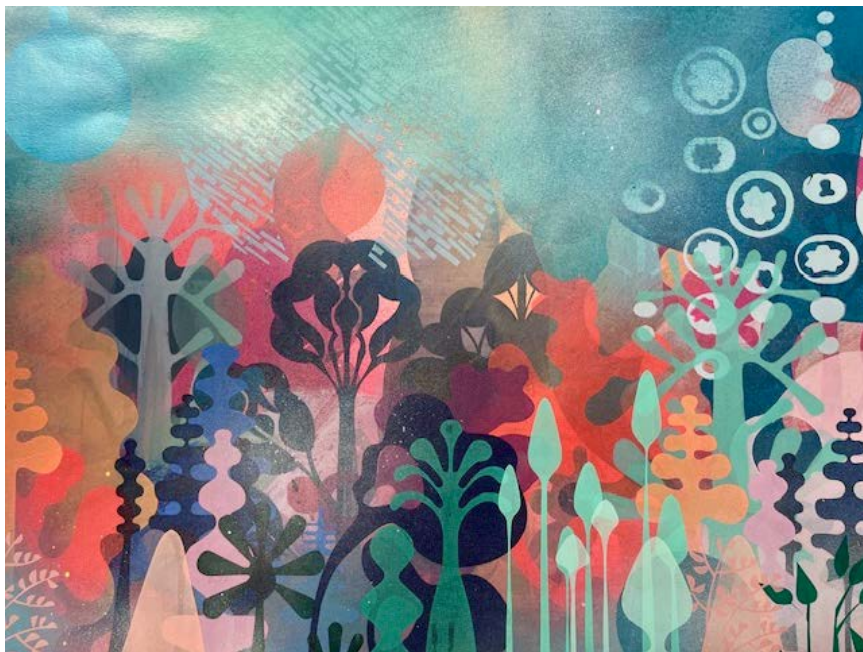
Shifting Light
66cm x 97cm
Board
£3,000 +GST



Somewhere, the Ending Changed
49cm x 57cm
Paper
£800 +GST



Held by Night (Triptych)
58cm x 61cm, 3 panels
Board
£3,000 +GST



Mars Thicket
84cm x 57cm
Paper
£900 +GST



Chromatic Drift
85cm x 59.5cm
Paper
£900 +GST



Forgiven
48cm x 44cm
Board
£700 +GST



Soubli (Soft Forgetting)
95cm x 95cm
Canvas
£3,000 +GST



Somewhere Else Instead
76cm x 33cm
Board
£900 +GST



Goufflune
61.5cm x 59cm
Board
£900 +GST

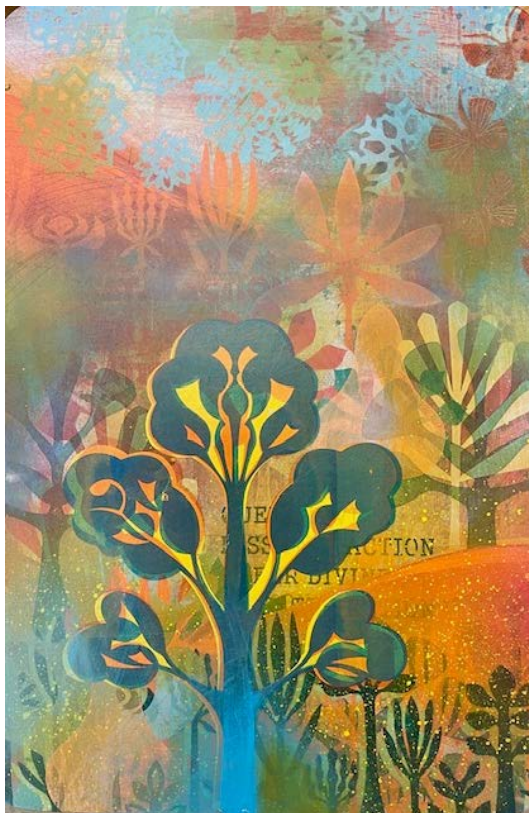


Sillonisse
62cm x 62cm
Board
£900 +GST



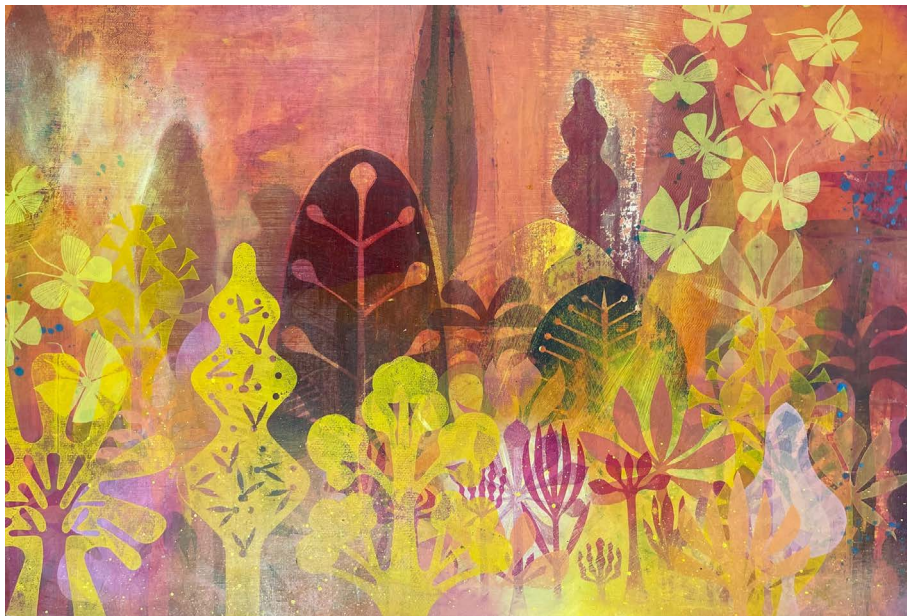
The Shade You Left Behind
23.5cm x 28.5cm
Board
£400 +GST

Wanderlust
33cm x 49cm
Board
£800 +GST





Halfway to Gone
63cm x 37cm
Board
£700 +GST



Meadow Haze
79cm x 59cm
Board
£2,000 +GST



Siren Glare
34cm x 26cm
Board
£500 +GST



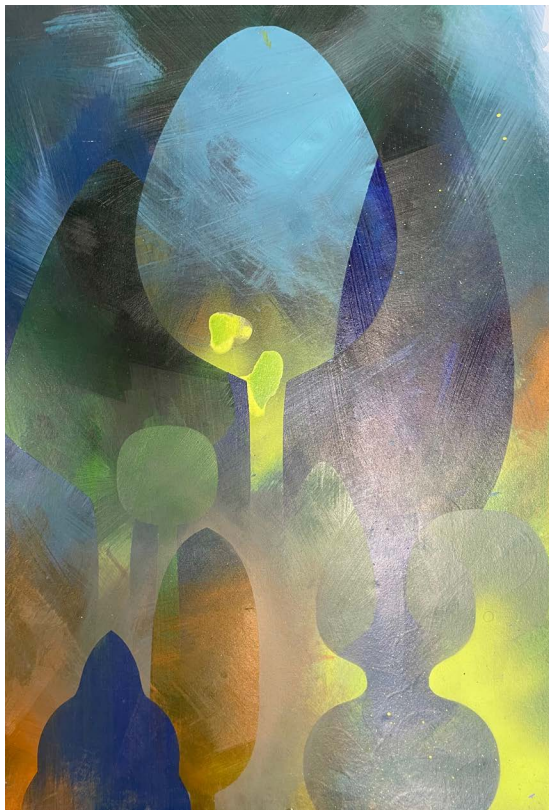
Thicket
21cm x 20cm
Board
£350 +GST



Verve
22cm x 22cm
Board
£350 +GST



The Lotus Eaters
34cmx26cm
Paper
£500 +GST



Outer Realms
90cm x 64cm
Paper
£900 +GST



Blob
14cm
Textile
£100 +GST



Nova
approx 20cm
Textile
£250 +GST



Oribital
approx 50cm
Textile
£500 +GST



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