



NICOLA LUCAS

LINES OF DESIRE

Introduction

The list of celebrated artists who are famous for their paintings of trees is extensive and dates back more than two thousand years.

‘Shan Shui’ refers to an early style of traditional Chinese painting that involves or depicts scenery and natural landscapes using a brush and ink rather than more conventional paints. Trees, mountains, rivers and waterfalls were the most prominent images, motifs and symbols in this most romantic and devout of Taoist artistic genres.

Trees have long been seen as sacred in the Far East and are often viewed as home to the immortal and thus closer to heaven whilst Chinese philosophical interest in nature (and in mystical connotations of naturalism) led to Neo-Confucian interest in the lines, patterns, structures and philosophical principles that underlie all natural phenomena.

Within the cannon of Western art there is a clear and symbolic meaning for trees in Gothic, Byzantine, Northern and Italian Renaissance Art. Trees came to represent spiritual nourishment, triumph over temptation, sustenance, spiritual renewal, strength and fertility. For the Christian iconographic painters of these eras trees formed part of a rich visual language at a time of limited literacy and were potent symbols designed to keep believers on the path to spiritual enlightenment.

Within the modernist period trees have continued to be an enduring inspiration for artists despite a seismic cultural shift away from rural to urban dwelling in the 20th century and artists such as Paul Cezanne, Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Gustav Klimt, Henri Rousseau, Piet Mondrian, Georgia O’Keefe, Anselm Kiefer and Peter Doig have all created powerful and joyous images of trees that are seared into our cultural consciousness.



Over the past three months there has been a collective, renewed appreciation and longing for nature, heightened by the fact that in the days of lockdown we were allowed just a few hours out in the open air with many of us feeling a deep craving for the natural world.

Lines of desire is a new body of work from Nicola Lucas that reflects upon this essential connection with nature.

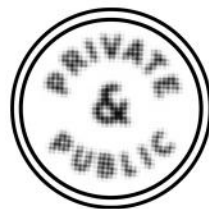
Nicola's paintings contemplate the unique healing power of trees and salt water, and how woodlands seem to intentionally create desire lines to lead us to where we need to be at exactly the right time.

Nicola Lucas is a Birmingham born artist who has been living in Jersey since 1992 having studied printed textile and surface pattern design at Somerset College.

She has staged two sell-out solo exhibitions at the Jersey Museum over the past three years and has paintings in private collections in Switzerland, France and the UK and has worked on numerous private commissions and international textile fairs.

Best known for her monochrome images of winter trees and bold watercolour woodlands this is her first exhibition at Private & Public Gallery and I look forward to welcoming you to what I consider to be the most aesthetically calming, serene and beautiful exhibition ever staged at the gallery.

Chris Clifford BA (Hons) MA – Director Private & Public Gallery





CEREMONY

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

95x76cm

£1,200 + GST



SENTINEL

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

95x76cm

£1,200 + GST



MORNING, NIGHT & DAY

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

95x76cm

£1,200 + GST



FOREVER BREATHE

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

95x76cm

£1,200 + GST



ROCQUEBERG

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020
123x101cm

£1,900 + GST



SENTIENT

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

94x74cm

£1,200 + GST



SPRING SEEPING

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

95x76cm

£1,200 + GST



WOODLAND BATHED IN UMBER

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

129x91cm

£1,900 + GST



PROCESSION

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020
92x74cm

£1,000 + GST



HAVE NO THOUGHT OF TIME

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020
97x74cm

£1,000 + GST

LINES OF DESIRE

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

88x57cm

£1,000 + GST







DISSOLVE

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

63x57cm

£450 + GST



EVENING TIDE EAST

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020
123x101cm

£1800 + GST



EVANESCE

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

63x57cm

£450 + GST



WHERE THE WATER & THE ICE CARESS

Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

124x86cm

£1,500 + GST

MOON TIDE EAST

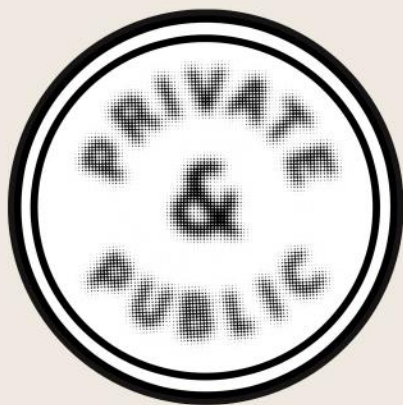
Framed watercolour on paper, 2020

95x76 cm

£1,000 + GST







MONDAY 29 JUNE – SATURDAY 18 JULY
OPENING TIMES: MONDAY–FRIDAY, MIDDAY TO 6pm
OR AT ANY OTHER TIME BY APPOINTMENT

To arrange a private viewing contact Chris Clifford, BA (HONS):
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Sommerville House, Philips Street, St. Helier Jersey JE2 4SW