



Petersfield Museum & Art Gallery acquires painting by Hampshire artist Melanie Rose

Honouring its commitment to promote and support artists living and working in the South Downs, Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery is delighted to announce that it has acquired *February (on the way to Petersfield) 2023*, by Hampshire-based landscape artist Melanie Rose (b.1964).

Reflecting her interest in the natural environment, *February* captures the colours of the season and the silhouetted trees that define the landscape of the South Downs, while the expressive painterly marks evoke a sense of movement and immersion in her surroundings.

The painting featured in last year's South Downs Open at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery and its acquisition serves to highlight the institution's commitment to preserving the county's artistic legacy. *February* also acts as a strong visual celebration of the artists who document and capture the outstanding beauty of the Downs.

Originally hailing from Carrickfergus in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, Rose has lived in Cheriton since 2000. She first became interested in landscape painting in 2012, when she was invited to display her work in the *Landscape, Art, and Uncertainty* exhibition held at Southampton City Art Gallery.

Since then, she has devoted herself to exploring a sense of 'place' through painting; looking at tracks, paths and ancient monuments, while also investigating contemporary concerns such as land access, biodiversity and stewardship of this historic part of England.

Louise Weller, Head of Collections and Exhibitions at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery says: *"Being able to acquire a piece from the South Downs Open supports our ambition to develop a modern and contemporary art collection that complements our existing Flora Twort Art Collection, which is the largest museum holding of her work. Flora Twort (1893-1985) was an artist who, like Melanie Rose today, continually explored and recorded the unique qualities of her surrounding landscape. Melanie's painting will be added to our permanent collection alongside a number of recent works gifted to us by the artists, including Gordon Rushmer (b.1946) and Sarah Butterfield (b.1953)."*

Dan McWilliam, Director at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery says: *"This acquisition strengthens Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery's role as a champion of regional art and heritage. As our reputation for showcasing the best in modern and contemporary art and craft develops, the formation of a significant art collection that resonates with our core values of history, place, environment and poetry will create a purposeful resource for our community."*

February (on the way to Petersfield) will go on display in the museum later in the year.

NOTES TO EDITORS

MEDIA IMAGES AVAILABLE, PLEASE EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS@PETERSFIELDMUSEUM.CO.UK

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery is an accredited, independent museum and registered charity. Established in 1999, it underwent a £4 million redevelopment, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A rare example of a restored Victorian Justice Heritage site, its permanent collections include an Archaeology Collection and Social History Collection relating to Petersfield and the surrounding area, the Flora Twort Art Collection, a Photography Collection (including the Don Eades Photographic Archive) and a Fashion and Textiles Collection (including the Bedales Historic Dress Collection), as well as a Reference Archive. The Flora Twort Gallery is a dedicated art gallery with a fine art and contemporary craft exhibition programme and an inclusive public programme. It is also home to the Tim Wilton-Steer Collection of works by and about the poet Edward Thomas, housed in The Edward Thomas Centre.

[Website](#)

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Melanie Rose is an artist whose work explores a sense of place and investigates concerns including biodiversity, stewardship and the relationship between people and the natural environment. Rose lives in Hampshire and her practice-led PhD from the University of Leeds focused on her research about the South Downs National Park landscape. More information can be found here: www.melanierose.org.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS, AND IMAGES

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