

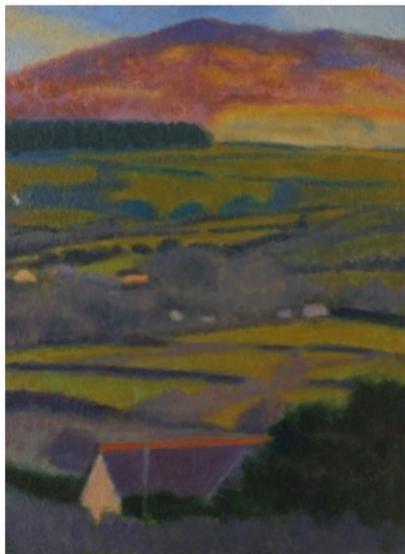


# Heart of Cornwall

Recent paintings and drawings by  
Tom Henderson Smith

Bodmin Shire Hall

March 28th - April 15th 2015



Distant moorland 50 x 40 cms

The essence, the spirit, of Cornwall: capturing these became Tom's aim in creating this collection.

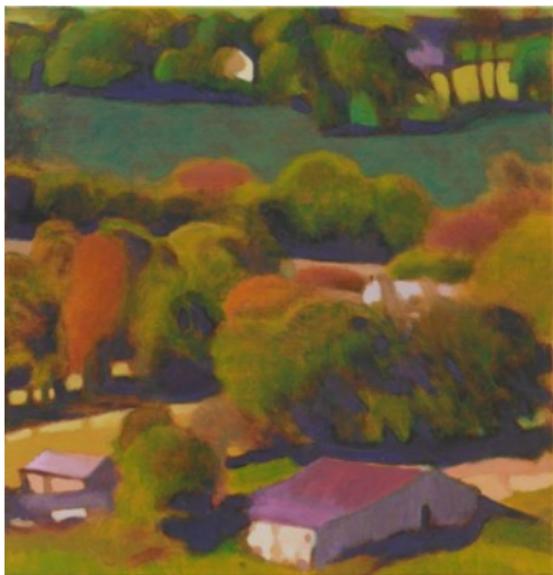
“The heart of Cornwall is not a place” a friend told him when he proposed this theme and he found himself agreeing with that statement. Tom and I had moved to St Columb Major

eighteen months previously after more than thirty years in the far south-west.

We are putting down new roots here in this central Cornwall location, making a base from which we can explore the area. As his paintings reveal, Tom has found fresh landscape inspiration here in the Vale of Lanherne while other parts of the Duchy continue to beckon. This exhibition is more than his portrayal of new locations though. It has become his pursuit of what the heart of Cornwall means to him and perhaps he is finding his way home.

Tom's early years were spent in equatorial Africa, followed by school in Yorkshire and a Fine Art Degree at Newcastle-upon-

Tyne University.  
Awarded a Bunzl  
travel scholarship, he  
then spent two further  
years travelling and  
studying art in Europe  
while based in  
Florence. Settling  
back in the United  
Kingdom led to a  
twenty-four year



**Farmland across the valley 40 x 40 cms**

career in art teaching, mostly in Cornwall. He left teaching in  
1999 to devote more time to painting and has exhibited widely  
since then. He now operates from our studio in St Columb.

Tom is aware that his approach to painting fuses his particular  
sensuous enjoyment of colour and texture, perhaps stemming from  
those vivid childhood memories of Africa, with a feeling for  
design confirmed by his student travel experiences, especially in  
Italy. These are the painterly values that he delights in using to  
translate on to canvas his varied experiences of Cornwall. In doing  
so he indeed captures and expresses something of the heart of the  
place.



Beach reflections 100 x 100 cms

Out in all weathers for his daily walk with our faithful collie companion Rags, Tom records a great variety of impressions for future reference: coastal forms, village communities, distant moorland, secret wooded valleys, stretches of farmland,

carnival and folk events, industrial heritage. To visit these he gets his boots muddy, discovers ancient footpaths and sometimes

revisits them time and again until he feels that he knows them intimately.

This is the way he finds the authenticity in his themes that I feel comes through in this exhibition.



Summer cliff-top tree 50 x 60 cms

Tom tells me that putting together his seventh solo exhibition since leaving teaching has suggested future painting possibilities as well. He has become

aware for example that there are many other aspects of a Cornish essence that he wants to celebrate in paint. Also, having found ways to work at this depth here, he says he is drawn to other areas of the UK in a similar way – perhaps even further afield.



Dog on a windy hill 38 x 54 cms

So many roads to travel, so many places still to explore..

This fine collection of paintings shows the deep bond Tom has forged with the Vale of Lanherne in the eighteen months that we have lived



Industrial heartland 80 x 80 cms

here, an area which is off the beaten track, away from the usual tourist haunts. He invites us to open our eyes as he has done to



Oak tree above the valley 51 x 76 cms

the secret pathways and corners we might overlook and to make our own connection with the heart of Cornwall.

Gabrielle Hawkes

	Title	medium	Price
1	Summer cliff-top tree, Mawgan Porth	Acrylic	50 x 60 cms stretched canvas £300.00
2	Panorama of The Vale of Lantheme	Acrylic	50 x 150 cms Set of three stretched canvases £850.00
3	Edge of town, St Columb	Acrylic	30 x 30 cms stretched canvas £300.00
4	Cornish farms. Carallack to Bollowal	Acrylic	61 x 61ms stretched canvas £450.00
5	Farmland across the valley	Acrylic	40 x 40 cms stretched canvas £350.00
6	Oak tree above the valley	Acrylic	51 x 76 cms stretched canvas sold
7	Distant moorland	Acrylic	50 x 40 cms stretched canvas £450.00
8	Beach reflections, Mawgan Porth	Acrylic	100 x 100 cms stretched canvas sold
9	Dusk, Bridge Hill, St Columb	Acrylic	100 x 100 cms stretched canvas sold
10	Carnival time, St Columb	Acrylic	80 x 80 cms stretched canvas £700.00
11	Summer evening, St Ives	Acrylic	60 x 50 cms stretched canvas £650.00
12	Lafrowda day 2014	Acrylic	120 x 80 cms stretched canvas £800.00
13	Industrial heartland, Cornwall	Acrylic	80 x 80 cms stretched canvas £700.00
14	Padstow Obby Oss	Acrylic	80 x 80 cms stretched canvas £700.00
15	Mackeral sky over Lands End	Charcoal	55 x 77 cms paper mounted on plywood £150.00
16	Dog on a windy hill	Charcoal	38 x 54 cms paper mounted on plywood £120.00
17	Woodland walk 2, the source	Charcoal	77 x 55 cms paper mounted on plywood £175.00
18	Woodland walk 1	Charcoal	77 x 55 cms paper mounted on plywood £175.00

## About the artist

An adopted Cornishman, Tom Henderson Smith grew up initially in Africa and later in Yorkshire. He was educated there and at Newcastle-upon-Tyne University (BA Hons. Fine Art 1971). Two years in Italy, initially on a Bunzl Scholarship were followed by seven living in Bath, training as a teacher at Bristol University and starting out teaching art in London. Moving to Cornwall in 1980 he worked as head of art at Mounts Bay School until the opportunity to leave teaching and relaunch his painting career came in 1999. Together with Gabrielle Hawkes he ran Visions and Journeys Gallery and later The Turn of the Tide, in St Just. They moved to St Columb Major in 2013.

## Previous solo exhibitions

- The Gallery on the Corner, Battersea, June 2012 - The Turning Year part 2
- Morvah Schoolhouse Gallery, Penzance, April 2012 - The Turning Year part 1
- The Gallery at Trereife, Penzance, June 2010 - Lived-in Landscapes
- Chapel Row Gallery, Bath, April 2010 - Lived-in Landscapes
- Falmouth Arts Centre, October 2008 - In the Ocean Light
- Bodmin Shire Hall, May 2006 - Shaping a Vision of Cornwall part 2
- Mariner's Gallery St Ives, April 2006 - Shaping a Vision of Cornwall
- Mariner's Gallery St Ives, October 2003 - Valleys and Horizons
- Mariner's Gallery St Ives, July 2001 - A Peninsula Suite
- Penzance Arts Centre, 1984
- Plymouth Arts Centre, 1977
- Bristol Arts Centre, 1976
- Bath Arts Centre, 1975
- Newcastle University, Sept 1972

## Group Exhibitions

- Castle Heritage Centre and Art Gallery, Bude (June/July 2011)
- Broadway Gallery, New York (May 2011)
- Durham University Ustinov Intercultural Forum (May 2011)
- Camden Art Gallery, London (Jan 2010)
- Galeria Gaudi of Madrid at Kunstart Art Fair, Bolzano, Italy (May 2007)
- Botallack Counthouse, Botallack, Cornwall (July 2002)
- Truro Museum, Cornwall (April 2002)
- The Camelford Gallery, Cornwall (October 2001)
- Morvah Schoolhouse Gallery, Cornwall (September 1999)
- Great Atlantic Mapworks Gallery, St. Just, Cornwall (1998)
- Visions and Journey's Gallery, St. Just, Cornwall (from 1986 to 1993)
- Newlyn Orion Gallery, Newlyn, Cornwall (1981)
- Federation of British Artists (1978)
- Royal Academy (1977)
- Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (1972)