

KATHERINE HAMILTON
SPIRIT OF PLACE



CHAPPEL GALLERIES, ESSEX

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PAINTINGS
2023 - 2025

Exhibition 8th November to 7th December 2025
OPENING DAY SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER NOON TO 5PM

All works in this exhibition are for sale

CHAPPEL GALLERIES, ESSEX



Katherine Hamilton in her studio 2025



Canopy (Suriname) | oil on canvas | 102 x 73cm

Waking before dawn on the banks of the Saramacca River a strange unfamiliar sound echoes from the surrounding forests, like thunder it triggers a sense of trepidation, the sound moves, growing closer and then recedes into the distance which both confuses and unsettles the listener. It is the call of the Howler Monkeys hidden and mysterious within this vast area of impenetrable forest. A place without humans, a refuge for the natural world.

Forests, valleys, gorges, forgotten places, I wander through often feeling like an intruder, not wanting to disturb but just listen and absorb, I make hasty notes in the attempt to capture what is around me.

There are no plans before a journey, just an arrival and departure date and an instinctive sense of direction. Whether across oceans or just a few miles up the road they are taken to renew one's sense of wonder of the world.

These journeys are just the beginnings of trying to find a way of sharing what inspired me with the viewer, months and years of scraping off, starting again, throwing away and even then only a few will surface.

Katherine Hamilton
August 2025
Suffolk



Late Afternoon (Ikaria) | oil on canvas | 100 x 74cm

Introduction

It is a measure of Katherine Hamilton's stature as a painter that, while we inhabit the same easterly edge of England, a quicksilver terrain slipping between landscape and seascape, her pictures always bring me fresh discoveries.

Not that, in life or art, she ever stays put for long. The traveller Freya Stark, on her last great journey, wanted only 'to see beyond the next mountain'. Kate is just the same - a restless spirit crossing the garden, or the globe, in pursuit of arresting images.

Since the mountains of Suffolk are clouds or waves, Kate wanders widely in search of geographical drama and new pictorial possibilities. A very painterly and colourist painter, her handling of pigment changes with the scenery and sensory experiences she wants to convey.

Artists are ageless - perennially youthful - and Kate is still the dancer who set up a balletic troupe in Addis Ababa. There is a feeling of great poise and balance and physicality in every creative thing she tackles. She swims in the North Sea early in the morning all year round.

Like Freya Stark she is immune to

hardship, and positively (or negatively in my cosseted view) seeks it out - leaving behind Asian balm to end in a hut on a mosquito-ridden beach with a storm brewing; continuing to check into an African hotel after watching a river of ants teeming down the stairs and bearing away previous residents (spiders, cockroaches, rodents) from the bedrooms.

She reveals the preciousness of our planet, but there is nothing precious in her technique. Like a maker of wine, she tramples emerging pictures underfoot while working on multiple canvases at the same time. The Greeks say they 'wrestle' with each day, and a Hamilton picture is the outcome of similar emotional and experiential combat.

But just as a true work of art should retain a core of mystery, the travails of creation should never be visible. Like David Attenborough, Katherine Hamilton brings a far-flung and often inhospitable world to our living rooms as if by magic.

How wonderful to be able to enjoy such hard-won beauty in perfect comfort.

Ian Collins. 2025



Wasdale (Cumbria) | oil on canvas | 103 x 206cm



Rising Forest (Suriname) | oil on canvas | 97 x 109cm



Clearing with Kapok Tree (Suriname) | oil on canvas | 89 x 132cm



Forest Wall (Suriname) | oil on canvas | 100 x 143cm



Harbour, Dusk (Southwold) | oil on canvas | 60 x 79cm



Winter Marsh, Suffolk | oil on canvas | 80 x 106cm



Terrace with Roses | oil on canvas | 84 x 91cm



Atheras Landscape (Greece) | oil on canvas | 74 x 107cm



Plantation House (Suriname) | oil on canvas | 84 x 126cm



Autumn Floor | oil on canvas | 61 x 74cm



Mountain House (Uchiko, Japan) | oil on canvas | 66 x 117cm



Winter Sea Holly | oil on canvas | 57 x 50cm



Wooded Hollow (Ikaria) | oil on canvas | 92 x 150cm



Garden (Suriname) | oil on canvas | 78 x 102cm



Forest Edge (Suriname) | oil on canvas | 87 x 65cm



Atheras Ravine | oil on canvas | 100 x 116cm



Low Tide, Glen Valley (Donegal) | oil on canvas | 95 x 166cm



Dingle Marsh, Dunwich | oil on canvas | 70 x 117cm



Blyth Estuary | oil on canvas | 108 x 148cm



Sun Trap (Northern Aegean) | oil on canvas | 96 x 92cm

CV

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 1971: Academy of Florence, Italy
- 1972: Byam Shaw School, London
- 1972-75: London School of Contemporary Dance, London
- 1976-80: Erick Hawkins's Dance Company, New York
- 1980-81: Choreographer, Modern Dance Studio, Amsterdam
- 1981-82: Choreographer, Ministry of Culture, Ethiopia
- 1982-92: Painter, Italy / Pyrenees / Mallorca
- 1992-Present: Painter, East Anglia

NOTABLE PROJECTS

- 2005: The agricultural communities of Guatemala
- 2006: Rural life and the small villages of Rajasthan, India
- 2007: Fishing communities of Senegal
- 2009: Life on and around the River Niger, Mali
- 2010: Circus Exhibition, Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth
- 2010: Southwold and the changing seasons
- 2011: Mawlamyine and its people, Burma
- 2012: The deserted diamond mines of Namibia
- 2013: The Volta Delta of Ghana
- 2014: Landscapes of Britain
- 2015: Landscapes of the southern Arctic Circle
- 2015: Landscapes of New Mexico and Utah, USA
- 2016-17: Winter Landscapes of the Arctic
- 2020-21: Public commission for the Old Hospital Project, Southwold
- 2021: Private Commissions

PUBLICATIONS AND TELEVISION

- 2002: 'Artists at Walberswick: East Anglian Interludes 1880-2000', by Richard Scott

- 2004: 'Coastal Journeys 2001-2004', by David Buckman, Chappel Galleries, Essex
- 2005: 'Making Waves: Artists of Southwold', by Ian Collins
- 2005: 'Coastal Inspirations', Anglia Television
- 2006: 'The Dictionary of British Artists since 1945', by David Buckman
- 2006: 'Southwold: An Earthly Paradise', by Geoffrey Munn
- 2007: 'Journeys East to West', by David Buckman (foreword by PD James), Chappel Galleries, Essex
- 2008: Documentary on Seago, Anglia Television
- 2010: 'Water Marks: Art in East Anglia', by Ian Collins
- 2011: 'Power of Place: Dartington Hall School Artists 1926-1987', edited by Alice Leach
- 2012: 'Southwold 2010-2012', by Ian Collins, Mandell's Gallery, Norwich
- 2015: Illustrated talk at Southwold Methodist Hall covering work from 2002 to 2015
- 2016: 'Landscape Journeys Inside and Out 2013-2016' by Andrew Lambirth (foreword by Dick Pope), Chappel Galleries, Essex
- 2018: 'A Compelling Dance of Shapes' by Andrew Lambirth, Campden Gallery, Gloucestershire
- 2020: 'Katherine Hamilton and the Classical Response' by Andrew Lambirth, Campden Gallery, Gloucestershire

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1985: The Christopher Hull Gallery, London
- 1991-93: The Sue Rankin Gallery, London
- 1994: Thackeray Gallery, London
- 1999: Chappel Galleries, Essex
- 2001: Chappel Galleries, Essex
- 2004: Chappel Galleries, Essex, 'Coastal Journeys 2001-2004'
- 2004: Chappel Galleries, Essex
- 2007: Chappel Galleries, Essex, 'Journeys East to West'
- 2010: Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth, 'Circus Exhibition'

- 2012: Mandell's Gallery, Norwich, 'Southwold 2010-2012'
- 2016-17: Chappel Galleries, Essex, 'Landscape Journeys Inside and Out 2013-2016'
- 2018: Campden Gallery, Gloucestershire, 'Sense of Place'
- 2020: Campden Gallery, Gloucestershire. 'Katherine Hamilton'
- 2023: Campden Gallery, Gloucestershire, 'Perspectives - Close and Far'
- 2025: Chappel Galleries Essex, 'Spirit of Place' 8th November - 7th December

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1988-89: The Piccadilly Gallery, London
- 1996: The New Academy Gallery, London
- 1996: Chichester Cathedral (highly commended award), exhibition organised by Christie's, London
- 1997: Royal Academy of Arts, Summer Exhibition
- 1998: Palma Square, International Art Exhibition, Princeton, New Jersey
- 1998: Cambridge Contemporary Art
- 1998: Chappel Galleries, Essex, 'Walberswick: Postwar to the Present'
- 1999: Woodgates Gallery, Suffolk
- 2000: Fry Gallery, Saffron Waldon, Essex
- 2005: Messum's, London, 'Painters and Sculptors of East Anglia'
- 2007: Chappel Galleries, Essex, 'Southwold, the East Coast'
- 2008: Salthouse Annual Exhibition, Norfolk
- 2011: St James Court, Norwich, 'Inspirations', exhibition organised by Jarrolds department store
- 2011: The Assembly House, Norwich
- 2012: Holt Festival Art Prize
- 2014: Buckenham Galleries, Southwold, 'Art and Soul: Treasured Paintings of Southwold'
- 2017: Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, 'Contemporary and Post War British Art Auction'
- 2018: Campden Gallery, Gloucestershire, 'Winter Exhibition'

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Jarrolds Art Collection
- UCS Art Collection
- Museum of Time and Tide Art Collection
- EDP Art Collection



Cobweb and Teasel | oil on canvas | 47 x 37cm

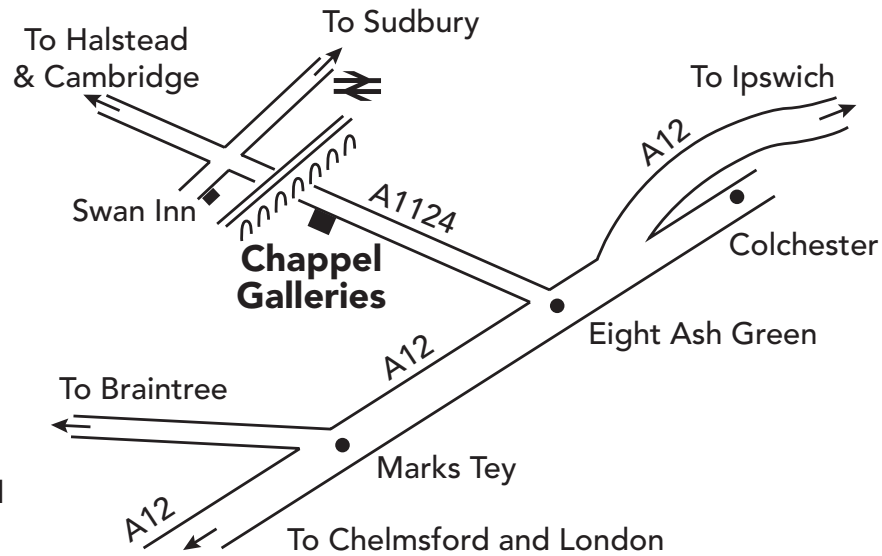
Front cover image:
River's Edge (Suriname)
oil on canvas | 97 x 160cm

Back cover image:
Trees and Downland (West Sussex)
oil on canvas | 101 x 165cm

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