

VICTORIA CROWE

RESONANCE OF TIME

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8th April - 21st May, 2022

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Flowers Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition by acclaimed artist Victoria Crowe, newly represented by the gallery.

The exhibition *Resonance of Time* continues Crowe's long-running investigation into the metaphysical landscape, and our relationship to nature, real and transmuted.

Crowe is widely known for her winter landscapes in which observations of everyday experience are transformed into the strikingly unfamiliar through symbolic associations with dream and memory. Often painted from recollections of walking at dusk, she captures the fleeting moments in which the natural world appears abstracted, from the luminous silhouettes of winter trees to the quietude of softened hillside landscapes blanketed by snow.



The Snow Lies in the Shadow, 2021, oil on linen, 76.2 x 91.4 cm

Through their subtle attention to surface, Crowe's paintings mark a journey of discovery, revealing an abiding interest in the patina of age, and the visceral evidence of wear and tear. Her process of layering and scraping back to uncover glimpses of underpainting reveals a sensitivity to the progress of time, pointing towards contrasting elements of fragility and permanence.

Crowe's works are frequently described as having a strong spiritual quality, evoking transcendent experiences witnessed through landscape. Trees are rendered with acute clarity, their delicate tracery of bare, threadlike branches set in stark contrast to the bleached northern sky in *Still, In the Snow*, or incandescent in the foreground of a darkening forest in *Language of the Night*.

Often, a low blaze of crimson on the horizon signals the transitory moments of twilight, bringing forth elements of dream and the strong visual memory of place. Crowe describes the twilight within her works as reflective of an inner life, indicating a transitional and contemplative state between beginnings and endings. This is seen, for example, in the flashes of jewelled colour against the lengthening shadows and fading light of *Shining of a Late Sun*. As Crowe says, "*for me, it is a positive honouring of past event and memory - melancholy is underrated.*"

For images and more information please contact Hannah Hughes: press@flowersgallery.com

Born in Kingston upon Thames (1945), Victoria Crowe was educated at Kingston School of Art and the Royal College of Art. At the age of 23 she began teaching at Edinburgh College of Art, where she remained for 30 years while developing her own practice. Awarded an OBE in 2004, alongside extensive exhibitions and fellowships, Crowe has taken on notable public portrait commissions including Nobel physicist Peter Higgs, composer Thea Musgrave and astrophysicist Dame Jocelyn Bell. In 2018 the Scottish National Portrait Gallery held *Beyond Likeness*, a retrospective exhibition of Crowe's portraits, and in 2019, the City Art Centre in Edinburgh hosted a lifetime retrospective, *Fifty Years of Painting*.

Crowe has worked with Dovecot Tapestry Studios on several significant commissions, including a monumental 40 metre long tapestry for Leathersellers' Hall in the City of London, installed in 2017. Crowe's winter paintings were projected alongside a production of Schubert's song cycle *Winterreise* with the opera singer Matthew Rose at Snape Maltings, Suffolk and London's Wigmore Hall in 2017; and she collaborated with the poet Christine de Luca, who wrote a series of poems in response to her paintings in 2020. In summer 2021, a performance of Thea Musgrave's *Trumpet Concerto* for Alison Balsom, a composition inspired by five of Crowe's paintings, was performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, California, USA.

Crowe's work is held in collections including the National Portrait Gallery, London; National Museums of Scotland; Scottish National Portrait Gallery; Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art; Danish 20th Century Portrait Collection, Frederiksborg Castle; Chatsworth House; and the Royal Academy.



From left: *Language of the Night*, 2021, oil on board, 81.3 x 61 cm;
Shining of a Late Sun, 2021, oil on linen, 110 x 130 cm

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Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 6pm or by appointment.