



SOUTHERN LIGHT

Tom Mabon



SOUTHERN LIGHT
Tom Mabon

Jonathan Cooper
20 Park Walk
London SW10 0AQ
t: +44 (0)20 7351 0410
mail@jonathancooper.co.uk
jonathancooper.co.uk



SOUTHERN LIGHT

Tom Mabon

Born in Kirkcaldy in 1956, Tom Mabon enrolled at Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen, in 1974. There he studied under the artists Frances Walker and Sylvia Wishart, and it is a testament to the young Mabon's talent that Wishart purchased one of his early works, now held in the Orkney Museum. As a student Mabon focused on abstraction, but realising that the artists whom he most admired were figurative painters, he switched his style almost overnight, and gained immediate praise in *The Scotsman* when he exhibited his first figurative work at the Society of Scottish Artists' Annual Exhibition, before winning the Royal Scottish Academy's prestigious Latimer Award the following year.

At the time, Mabon did not know any artists making a full-time living from their work, or that pursuing a career as a painter might even be possible, and chose to become an art teacher. For the next 37 years he continued to paint in the evenings and at weekends,

holding many solo shows. Since retiring from teaching in 2016, he has enjoyed devoting himself fully to painting, charting the changing seasons of the Scottish Highlands from his home on the Black Isle. The paintings in this exhibition, however, are inspired by two artistic pilgrimages, the first, in the spring of 2019, to the ancient cities and hilltop villages of Tuscany, and the second, in the autumn of the same year, to Provence.

The artists of northern Europe have long been fascinated by Italy, from the Dutch and Flemish *Bentvueghels* of the seventeenth century, to the German Nazarenes of the nineteenth, both of whom found inspiration in the ancient ruins of Rome. Mabon, however, was drawn to Florence, his visit inspired by an eighteenth-century engraving after a Filippino Lippi fresco in the Brancacci Chapel, purchased in an antiquarian bookshop in Inverness. In visiting Provence, he was inspired by the still lifes and landscapes of Cézanne and van Gogh, and



1

In the Harvest Month – Provence

oil on linen on board 20.32 x 25.4 cm / 8 x 10 ins

£1,200

careful observers will find a homage to both painters in Mabon's *Still Life in Aix* and *Window in Arles*.

When asked to describe his work in just three words, one that springs to Mabon's mind is 'tonal', and his subtle palette beautifully captures the growing warmth of the Italian sun on a spring day, or the fading light of autumn twilight in Provence. Another is 'considered', a lasting influence of the tutors whom he admired, and whose careful application of paint he shares. Perhaps we can also detect Mabon's early study of abstraction in his attention to composition, which in each painting begins with snippets of scenes sketched or remembered, and is developed and honed in a process that sees works turned to the wall in his studio, sometimes returned to months or years later. The first word chosen by Mabon to describe his work, however, is 'quiet', and his landscapes are imbued with a stillness that offers peace and reflection in an ever-changing world.

At a time when so many of us are confined to our homes in the midst of a northern winter, the paintings in this exhibition remind us all of the beauty and joy of southern European light. Several of their titles are inspired by Dante's *Divine Comedy*, which Mabon was reading as he executed them. As we view them, however, we might perhaps be reminded of another great work of Florentine literature, Boccaccio's fourteenth-century *Decameron*, whose young protagonists escape the plague-ridden city for an abandoned villa in Fiesole, to the north of Florence. There, safe in their rural haven, they enjoy the tranquillity of its gardens, distracting and entertaining their companions with amusing tales, and the book has long been viewed as a symbol of the importance of human creativity and resilience.

Until we can visit Italy and France again, we hope that you enjoy these works, a celebration of remembered places, and southern light.

Rebecca Wall



2

Hillside and Cat at Fiesole

oil on linen 60.96 x 60.96 cm / 24 x 24 ins

£3,600

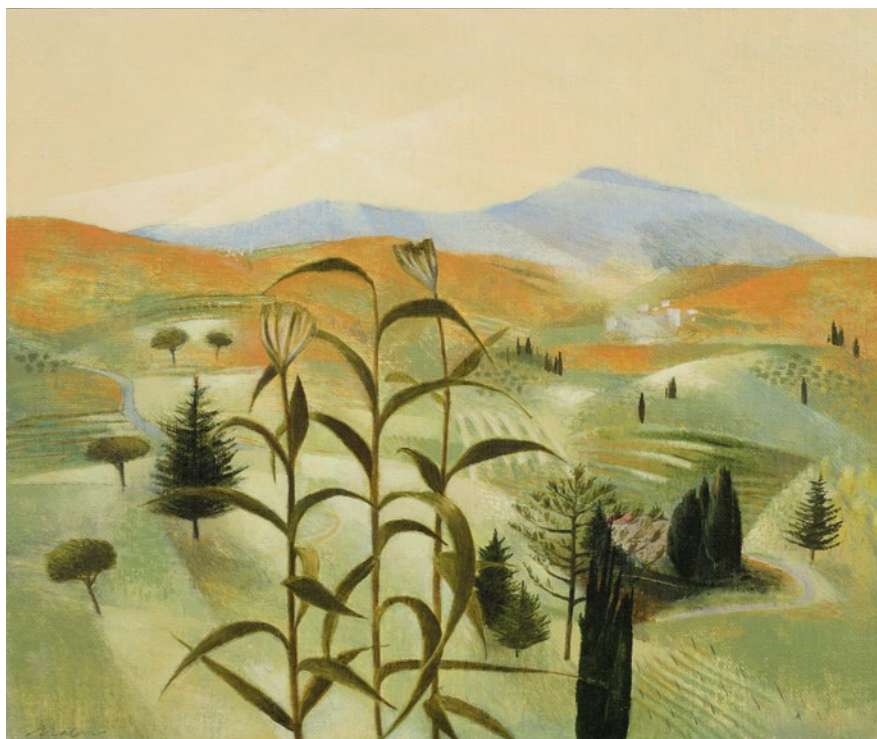


3

Florentine Gardens

oil on linen 76.2 x 76.2 cm / 30 x 30 ins

£4,500



4

Evening in the Lunigiana Hills

oil on linen on board 25.4 x 30.48 cm / 10 x 12 ins

£1,400



5

Passing Montelupo Fiorentino

oil on linen on board 25.4 x 30.48 cm / 10 x 12 ins

£1,400



6

A Garden under the Apennines – Villa Collemandina

oil on linen on board 25.4 x 30.48 cm / 10 x 12 ins

£1,400



7

Across Tuscan Fields

oil on linen on board 25.4 x 30.48 cm / 10 x 12 ins

£1,400



8

The High Green Hills – Tuscany

oil on linen on board 20.32 x 25.4 cm / 8 x 10 ins

£1,200



9

The Path was cut – Tuscany

oil on linen on board 20.32 x 25.4 cm / 8 x 10 ins

£1,200



10

Ever darkening tints below the Apennines

oil on linen 60.96 × 60.96 cm / 24 × 24 ins

£3,600



11

The Gentle Season – Bonnieux

oil on linen 91.44 x 121.92 cm / 36 x 48 ins

£7,400



12

Still Life in Aix

oil on linen on board 20.32 x 25.4 cm / 8 x 10 ins

£1,200



13

Window in Arles

oil on linen on board 25.4 x 20.32 cm / 10 x 8 ins

£1,200



14

Rising Moon – Tuscany

oil on linen 35.56 × 45.72 cm / 14 × 18 ins





15

Lake Como Garden

oil on linen 45.72 × 45.72 cm / 18 × 18 ins





16

The Light that shines beneath the Moon – San Gimignano

oil on linen 25.4 x 25.4 cm / 10 x 10 ins

£1,400



17

The Sound of Bells – San Gimignano

oil on linen 60.96 × 60.96 cm / 24 × 24 ins

£3,600

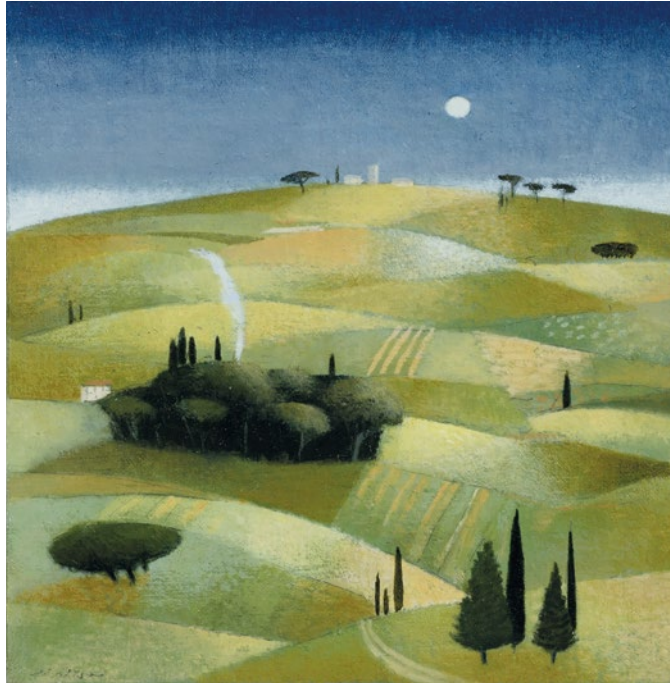


18

Night's early Hours – Tuscany

oil on linen on board 15.24 x 15.24 cm / 6 x 6 ins

£850



19

Shadows of the Night – Tuscany

oil on linen on board 15.24 x 15.24 cm / 6 x 6 ins

£850



20

As Daytime ends – San Gimignano

watercolour and crayon on paper 30.48 x 35.56 cm / 12 x 14 ins

£2,000



21

Patterned Fields – Provence

watercolour and crayon on paper 36.38 x 55.88 cm / 14.5 x 22 ins

£2,400



22

The Road to Monte Oliveto

oil on linen 60.96 × 60.96 cm / 24 × 24 ins

£3,600



23

Landscape in Spring – San Gimignano

oil on linen 76.2 x 101.6 cm / 30 x 40 ins

£5,500



24

Landscape below San Gimignano

oil on canvas 76.2 x 76.2 cm / 30 x 30 ins

£4,500



25

The Church of Saint Augustine – San Gimignano

oil on linen on board 20.32 x 25.4 cm / 8 x 10 ins





26

Church and Moon, Lourmarin – Provence

oil on linen 45.72 x 45.72 cm / 18 x 18 ins

£2,600



27

Daylight was leaving Roussillon

oil on linen 60.96 x 60.96 cm / 24 x 24 ins

£3,600



TOM MABON

Born Kirkcaldy, 1956

Gray's School of Art 1974 – 78

Has lived on the Black Isle since 1985

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

A Memory of the Landscape, Castle Gallery, Inverness, 2019

Time and Place, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, 2018

Quarter Days, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, 2015

Common Ground, Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Glasgow, 2014

Before and Beyond, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, 2013

Tom Mabon Revisited, Rendezvous Gallery, 2012

The Turning of the Year, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, 2011

Footsteps, Rendezvous Gallery, Aberdeen, 2009

Quiet Places, Rendezvous Gallery, Aberdeen, 2006

North by Northwest, Rendezvous Gallery, Aberdeen, 2004

Kilmorack Gallery, 2002

Rendezvous Gallery, 2002

Kilmorack Gallery, 1999

Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, 1998

Rendezvous Gallery, Aberdeen, 1998

Rendezvous Gallery, Aberdeen, 1995

Crawford Centre, University of St. Andrew's, 1990

Inverness Printmakers, 1990

Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, 1988

AWARDS

Armour Award, Royal Glasgow Institute, 2012

Morrison Scottish Portrait Award, 2nd Prize,

Royal Scottish Academy, 1993

7th Cleveland (UK) International Drawing Biennale,

Major Prize Winner, 1985

Latimer Award, Royal Scottish Academy, 1981

COLLECTIONS

Edinburgh City Collection

Fleming Collection, London

Aberdeen University

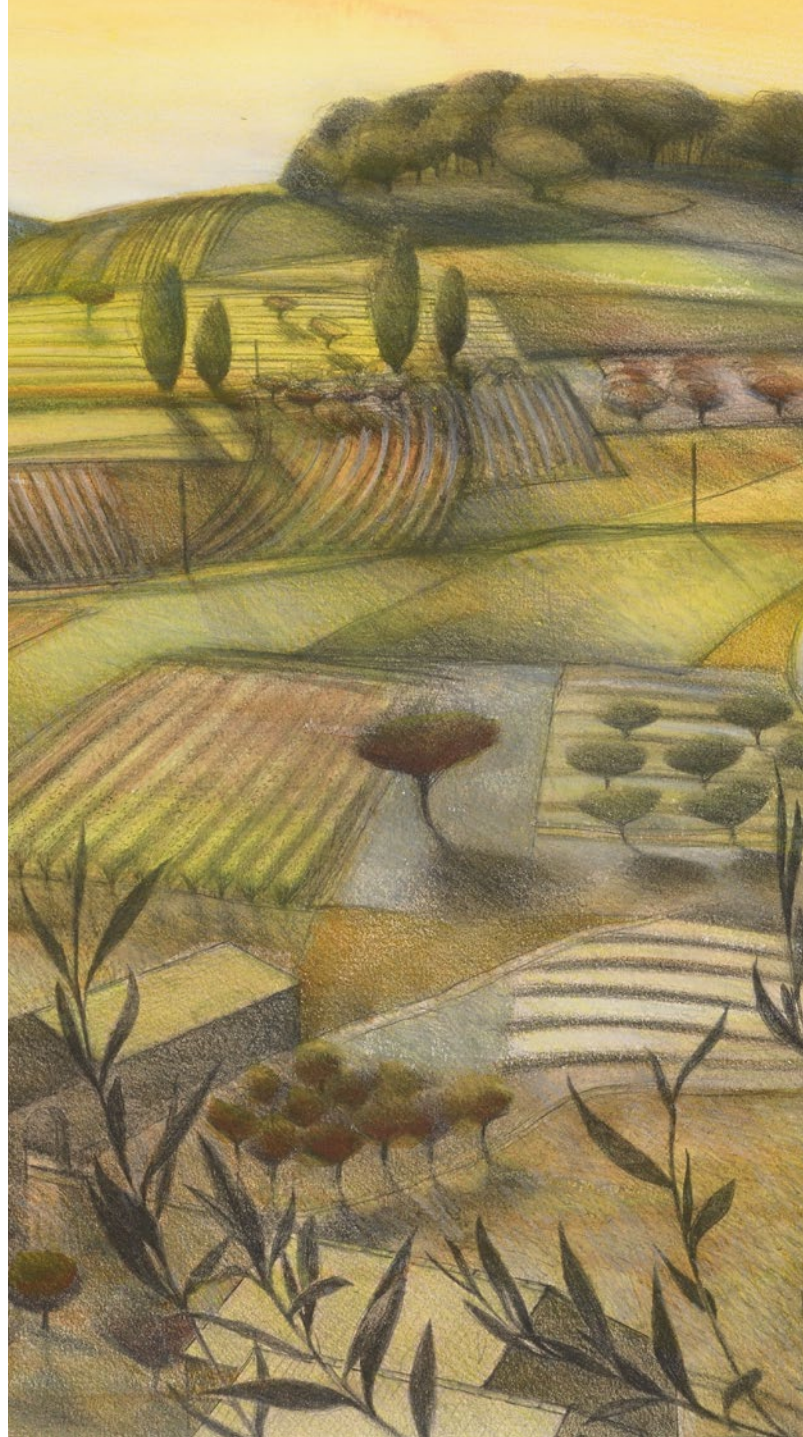
Robert Gordon University

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art

Highland Council

Scottish Maritime Museum

Orkney Museum



JONATHAN COOPER

