

# TRAVELS IN ARCADIA

DAVID HEATHCOTE

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition: 5 May until 15 May 2017

Private view: Thursday 4 May, 5pm - 8pm

Norman Plastow Gallery, Village Hall, Lingfield Road Wimbledon Village SW19 4QD



*Above and Below*, 1990, acrylic on canvas, 91 x 102 cm

*Travels in Arcadia* is a new solo show by David Heathcote which presents a range of his paintings: creative interpretations of landscape, inspired by his experience over two decades of African light, space and colour, and the rediscovery of his native Kentish countryside where he spent the carefree years of his youth. In some respects Arcadian, these influences and his love of poetry have contributed to his lasting attachment to the concept of poetic landscape.

Heathcote was an art student in Canterbury in the 1940s and at the Slade in the 1950s. From 1959 to 1979 he was a teacher and art historian in Zimbabwe and Nigeria. After returning to England, he committed himself to creative work, and also, from 1983 to 1996, to teaching and lecturing at Canterbury Christ Church University. Now his daily routine includes several hours in his studio, drawing and painting imaginative landscapes.

In recent years Heathcote has had three other solo exhibitions organised by GV Art London, two in Chiltern Street, London, and one in Paris. He lives in Canterbury with his wife, Janet, who is curating the current exhibition.

– Ends –

**For press enquiries and images contact:**

GV Art gallery, London on

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

**David Heathcote** (born 1931) is a contemporary painter whose work has been evolving for more than sixty years. David has used a wide range of media in his work: oil and acrylic paint, collage, printing techniques, assemblage, clay, bronze and stone. He has always maintained a significant commitment to drawing, both objective and imaginative. Although his sculpture has frequently been inspired by his drawings, his paintings have almost exclusively been the product of imagination.

David trained at Canterbury College of Art, and later at the Slade under Claude Rogers and Keith Vaughan. A crucial moment for David as an artist was his first awareness of cubism while he was a student at the Slade. Africa has also left lasting impressions, affecting in oblique but forceful ways David's use of colour and form.

**Janet Heathcote** lived in Southern Africa until 1968 when she joined David in Nigeria. Before settling in England in 1979, she was a teacher of science and mathematics, first in Zimbabwe and then in Nigeria. With the introduction of home computers in the 1980s, Janet became interested in computing, particularly programming. Subsequently she was a lecturer in computing at Canterbury College for seventeen years. This experience has allowed her to support David in many administrative aspects of his profession, often developing new skills as they were required.

Although not an artist, Janet has acquired over many years an understanding and appreciation of David's work, and that of other artists. This exhibition shows paintings she has chosen for the colours and imaginative quality of each piece and their sense of unity as a group.

**GV Art London** will also present two further exhibitions at the Norman Plastow Gallery;  
Franciszka Themerson 29 September to 10 October 2017  
Rachel Gadsden Gadsden 13 October to 23 October 2017  
E : [info@gvart.co.uk](mailto:info@gvart.co.uk) | W : [www.gvart.co.uk](http://www.gvart.co.uk)

The **Norman Plastow Gallery** is an exciting and versatile community exhibition space set in the heart of Wimbledon Village. It forms part of the Wimbledon Village Hall Trust facilities and is an important part of its charitable provision. Full details at [www.wimbledonvht.org.uk/the-village-hall-gallery](http://www.wimbledonvht.org.uk/the-village-hall-gallery)

VISITOR INFORMATION

Norman Plastow Gallery  
Village Hall, 26 Lingfield Road  
Wimbledon Village  
London SW19 4QD

GALLERY OPENING HOURS

Monday to Sunday 11am - 6pm  
or by appointment  
**Admission Free**

**GETTING THERE**

The Gallery is accessed from the Village Hall in Lingfield Road, off Ridgway which is at the top of Wimbledon Hill Road. Parking is available, (metered until 6.30pm). The gallery is on the 1st floor (as part of a listed building there is no lift access).

Nearest tube + overground station Wimbledon / Buses 200 493 93



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