

Introducing  
Charles Inge

The beautiful capture of  
chance and chaos

Inaugural Collection



Available online and in the  
gallery from May 27th





# ARTIST STATEMENT

“Lust for life is the ongoing subject of my painting. Nature, natural forms and the changing seasons infuse my work. Inspired by nature I work intuitively. I work in series directly onto the canvas.

I begin my paintings by creating a state of chaos and then, over many layers, I search for beauty within the chaos.

The painting’s history is important to me. I scratch back into the paint as much as I add to the surface.

Colour provides the emotion in the work. I think of colour in musical terms: jazzy, dancing, loud, soft, minimal, Baroque. I always play music whilst I am painting.

My paintings are a celebration of life, even if they are tinged with sadness. I do not believe you can have one without the other.”

Charles Inge

# CHARLES INGE

Born in Rugby, Charles Inge knew he wanted to be a painter from a young age. His initial training was undertaken at the Ruskin School of Fine Art and although he went on to obtain a place to study at the Royal College of Art, Charles instead went into advertising. For thirty years, he had an incredibly successful career as an art director, where he worked alongside some of the world's best directors, photographers, artists and designers.

At the age of 50, he left advertising and decided to dedicate himself entirely to painting. To re-engage with the art scene after so many years, he attended Turps Art School and afterwards set up a studio in Soho. However, Covid and the lockdown that followed saw him move to the Isle of Wight on a full-time basis. His tranquil studio, a converted old stables and coach house, is surrounded by rolling countryside and only 10 minutes away from the sea. Much of his inspiration for his work comes from long walks in this stunning landscape.

Some of his earliest memories are painting with his father, who was himself a keen amateur watercolorist. His father taught him different rudimentary skills, including how to recognise paints by their taste. As a result, paint and colour has always been a multi-

sensory experience for him. His artistic process today is an exploration into colour, layer, harmony and texture. Working mostly in acrylics and oil, each work begins in a colourful state of chaos. Working over many weeks, scraping, sanding, painting, he looks to create some kind of beauty from the chaos. Detached from any preconceptions as to the final result, the painting will dictate its own course. Charles sees a painting as complete only when it is strong enough to stand on its own two feet.

Charles has exhibited widely, including at the National Portrait Gallery, with the Royal Society of Marine Artists, the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour and the Royal Institute of Oil Painters. His work has been featured in Vogue Magazine as well as Town & Country Magazine and is represented in the collection of Art UK. In 2021, he won the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize and this year, as well as back in 2020, he was shortlisted for the Jackson's Painting Prize.





# BELL JARS

“We live in anxious times, and most things are completely out of our control, so I want to make paintings that are filled with chance and chaos.

I use all sorts of tools, that shouldn't really belong in an art studio, and over many, many, layers, I try and wrestle some form of order from the chaos.

Finally, I encase them in Bell Jars so each Bell Jar has it's own journey. Its own experience. Its own personality.

It's my way of capturing these times.”

Charles Inge

The initial idea for his bell jar series was inspired by the covid pandemic and the lockdown that followed. They're reflective of those anxious times and so are filled in their creative process with chance and chaos. The final result is an equal mix of containment and freedom. Although there is certainly some premeditation to his bell jars, Charles usually begins only with a spark of an idea. He

tries not to let this idea control or dictate the process. Meaning, that the final image is largely a surprise.

Charles uses a variety of tools, some that you wouldn't traditionally find in an artist's studio, to build up layer after layer, texture after texture. Eventually, he tries to wrestle some order from the chaos, revealing in the end some beautiful design or image. The contents of the jars can be seen as contained matter or energy, sometimes including recognisable elements but often they're loose renderings of eclectic, indiscernible 'stuff' which he then encases in vitrines. Each jar is entirely unique and will have its own journey, history and character.





FEATHER, 2021

Acrylic and oil on canvas

152 x 101 cm

£4,500

(Inge\_COO1)

ADONIS, 2022

Oil and acrylic on canvas

152 x 101 cm

£4,500

(Inge\_CO02)







ANGELUS, 2021

Oil and acrylic on canvas

122 x 91 cm

£3,960

(Inge\_CO03)

PARADISE LOST, 2022

Oil and acrylic on canvas

122 x 91 cm

£3,960

(Inge\_CO04)







GONE, 2022

Oil and acrylic on canvas

122 x 91 cm

£3,960

(Inge\_CO05)

BRAND NEW AND BROKEN, 2022

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

122 x 91 cm

£3,960

(Inge\_C006)







LADYBIRD, 2021

Oil and acrylic on canvas

122 x 91 cm

£3,960

(Inge\_COO7)

# ARTIST CV

## Education

2020 Turps Art School  
1983 BA at Ruskin School of Fine Art, Oxford University

## Selected Exhibitions

2023 HYGGE, On the Lam, Online Exhibition  
Sunny Art Prize, London  
2022 The Cult House Open  
Cheltenham Literary Festival, Spring Gallery,  
Cheltenham  
Oxmarket Open, Chichester  
London Art Fair  
Contemporary British Painting: Paradoxes 52  
Painters, Quay Arts, Isle of Wight  
2021 'Spiritus Mundi', Solo Exhibition, Ashurst Emerging  
Artist Gallery, London  
Quay Arts Biennial, Isle of Wight  
Turps Group Show, Thames-side Studios, London  
2020 Group Show, Los Angeles.  
2019 Isle of Wight Biennial, Quay Arts, Newport  
Turps Group Show, The Art Academy, London  
Group Show, Hundred Years Gallery, London

2018

Set 24', Group Show, The Art Academy, London  
'Small is Beautiful', Flowers Central, Cork Street,  
London  
Whytham Hall Art Prize Exhibition, London

## Awards

2023 Shortlisted for the Jackson's Painting Prize  
2022 The Cult House Open, Shortlist  
2021 Overall winner, Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize  
Quay Arts Biennial Selected Artist  
2020 Shortlisted for the Jackson's Art Painting Prize  
2018 Winner of the Whytham Hall Art Prize  
2016 Winner of the Windsor and Newton Oil Painting  
Prize, Royal Society of Marine Artists





THE  
STRATFORD  
GALLERY

All artworks are available to purchase on receipt of this catalogue. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of the gallery team via [art@thestratfordgallery.co.uk](mailto:art@thestratfordgallery.co.uk) or call us on 01386 335 229.