



SHEILA MULLEN

CLOCK TOWER GALLERY
GLEN HOUSE

12 NOV 2017 – 28 FEB 2018

ONLY BY APPOINTMENT

SHEILA MULLEN

Image on reverse:
Springwells, 1987, oil on canvas, 152 x 122 cm

Sheila Mullen was born in Glasgow in 1942 and studied at Glasgow School of Art from 1960-64. After recovering from a severe bout of MS, she and her family moved to Dumfriesshire in 1977 and for the last 40 years Sheila has devoted her life to recording, in large lyrical oils, the magical landscape of the Kinnel Valley near her remote Annandale farmhouse studio, and to depicting the area's rich folklore and poetic traditions. Like her predecessor Joan Eardley, Sheila works plein-air in all weathers and likewise her thickly impasto oils convey her intimate relationship with her locality. As her daughter Katy, an accomplished poet, puts it:

"She was never like some genteel 'lady artist' with fine brushes and watercolour paper, sitting prettily admiring 'the view'. She would strap a massive canvas to her old-fashioned bicycle and an old army bag full of oil paints, turps and big brushes, reach the wildest and truest corner she could, find a final secret magical place, set up her tools and just sit. She told me that after a while of stillness, the life began to forget she was human, the wood would gradually begin to stir – even investigate her".

This small but comprehensive exhibition focuses on her early expressionist landscapes, which have lain almost forgotten by the public in an old stading. Since living as she does so far from national art centres, Sheila has remained a peripheral figure in the Scottish art world, best known through regular local exhibitions in Dumfriesshire, though in the mid nineteen-eighties, when she was associated with the 369 Gallery, she did show for a short time in Edinburgh, London, Paris and even as far afield as Hong Kong. Her work from this period is in the collections of the Bank of Scotland, Leeds City Art Gallery and the Duke of Buccleuch.

Since the early nineties, her marvellous expressive pictures have not received the promotion they deserve. We are delighted to remind a wider viewing public what hidden treasures Scotland has in the paintings of Sheila Mullen.

Andrew Brown

Please join us for the

OPENING RECEPTION

GLEN HOUSE

12 NOV 2017 / 11:00 – 15:00

Or for an appointment

Andrew Brown: 07913 025 022

Glen House: 01896 830 210

glenhouse.com

info@glenhouse.com

THE CLOCK TOWER GALLERY

This Autumn, The Clock Tower Gallery at Glen House is pleased to be mounting an exhibition of works by the poetic landscape painter Sheila Mullen. This is the first show for the new Gallery and the first in a series - to be curated by the artist and collector Andrew Brown - reassessing important Scottish artists whose work deserves wider recognition in their homeland and further afield.

The Gallery is an initiative of Tessa Tennant & Bill Staempfli.

ANDREW BROWN, Guest Curator

It will be 40 years next year since Andrew Brown founded the 369 Gallery in Edinburgh to provide desperately needed exhibition space for young Scottish artists. The 369 Gallery played a crucial role in promoting contemporary Scottish painting at home and abroad through ground-breaking exchange exhibitions in the USA, Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Concentrating on the women artists he exhibited, Andrew is curating a series of shows for them over 2018 and invites you to look again at these young Turks of the early 369 as they re-emerge as today's Grandes Dames of Scottish painting.