

An abstract painting with a textured, layered appearance. It features a mix of colors including muted greens, yellows, purples, and greys, with visible brushstrokes and a sense of depth. The composition is non-representational, with various shapes and colors blending into each other.

Shifting

A joint exhibition by Karen Birchwood and Kate Schuricht

Horizons

PADSTOW
— GALLERY —

EST 2018

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Exhibition Introduction

'Shifting Horizons' continues Kate Schuricht and Karen Birchwood's journey with Padstow Gallery that started 5 years ago and brought about their first joint exhibition *'Where the Light Dances'*, in 2019.

In this new exhibition they are presenting bodies of work that explore their common theme of horizons, and the memories and emotions instilled in landscapes. This refers both to the exterior lie of the land as well as more intimate home settings, where still lives and collections of pots create an indoor vista.

Both Kate and Karen have an intuitive approach to working with colour. Whilst Karen uses open, gestural marks to capture the drama she experienced on a trip to the Scottish Highlands in her new paintings, Kate dips and layers glazes to create shifting lines across the surface of her pots.

Working in dark grey and black clay acts to ground the pots in earthy tones, which are in turn accentuated by the lighter shades of green and flashes of metal lustre glazes.

Karen's delicate palette of grey, green and lilac with accents of acid yellow deepens to dark grey and deep blue to capture the essence of Scotland:

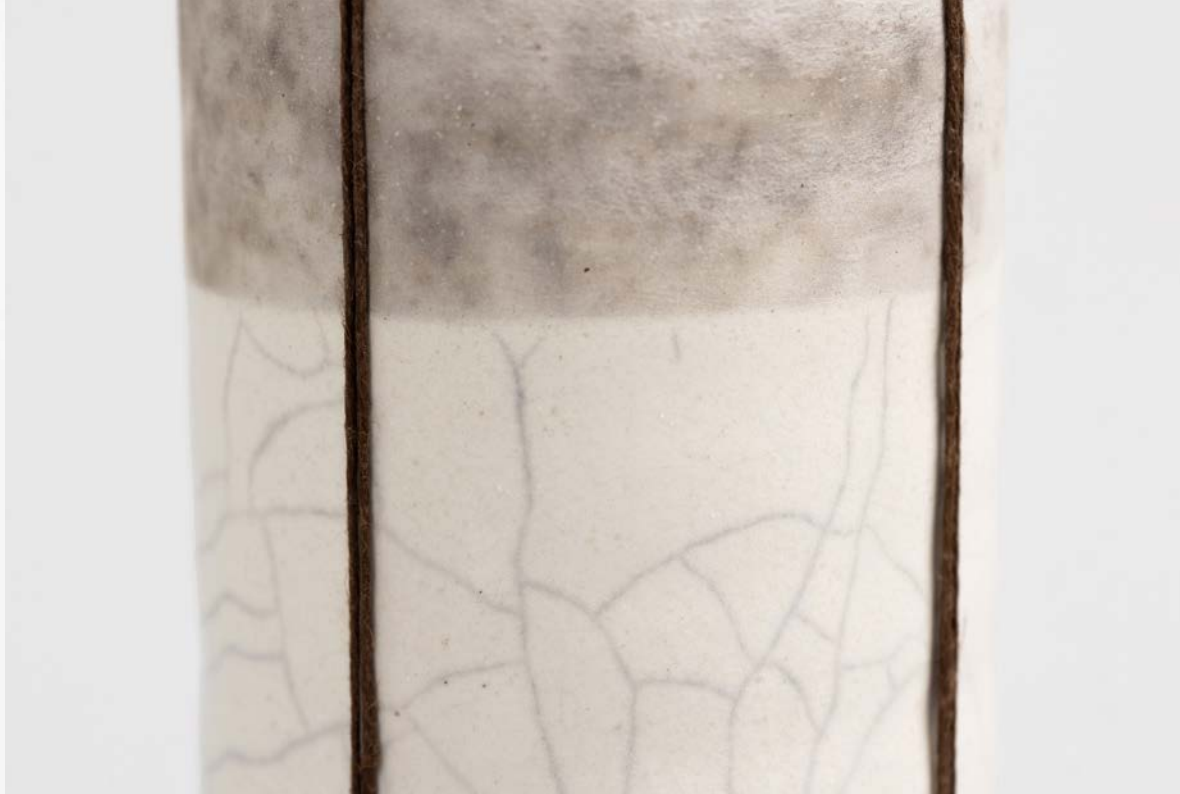
"I wanted to use simple line and colour to emphasise the quiet, open space of the hills and coast. The fast, shifting weather of The Highlands is so unique and powerful, changing the colours of the land in a moment from dark and stormy to airy soft greys and blues, rising out of the sea from windswept, deserted beaches to dramatic hills and rocks. This led me to use strong notes of black, turquoise blue and green to represent this unique landscape." KB



Sea Hut 2
£795 | 70 x 45.5cm



Shifting Colours 2
£795 | 70 x 45.5cm



Raku Bound Containers
£120 - £160



Hidden Landscape 2
£1,900 | 94 x 94cm



Biography - Karen Birchwood

Karen grew up in Kent and completed her degree in printed textiles at Middlesex Polytechnic in North London. She went on to work for a leading London studio, designing textiles for both fashion and interiors. Amongst her clients were companies such as Laura Ashley, Monsoon, Fenn Wright and Manson and Marks & Spencers. Karen also designed a range of ceramic tableware for Habitat.

In 2004, Karen and her young family made the big move out of London back to her much missed Kentish countryside. Her textile studio experience had offered many opportunities to paint designs but the freedom of her degree was still a source of inspiration. Once settled back in Kent, the desire to get out her brushes resurfaced and Karen decided to follow her dreams and start a new career as a painter.

Her work is a personal response and reflection, a memory of place. The subject varies from vibrant landscapes and seascapes to abstract still life paintings, with her own garden playing a pivotal role. If you were to ask her what the initial motivation was, it would, without doubt, be colour. She reflects her subject using texture and layering, creating a sense of movement and space. Her background as a textile designer is very much evident in the way she uses her materials to create a piece.



Using acrylic paint has become second nature to her. Unlike oil, Karen loves the way acrylic paints dry so quickly, giving her the opportunity to create impressionistic layers; from sweeping washes to intense colours. Recently, she has been building on this technique and introduced collage to bring the paintings to life.

Karen is represented by a number of UK galleries and is a selected member of the Rye Society of Artists.



Sea Hut 1
£795 | 70 x 45.5cm



Shifting Colours 1
£795 | 70 x 45.5cm



Table Collection 5
£595 | 44.5 x 44.5cm

Biography - Kate Schuricht

Kate Schuricht's ceramics are made in a personal pursuit of peace and tranquillity, and are an attempt to make a connection with a more natural and creative past. Her signature bound containers, with their permanently secured lids, capture time and suspend us in a sense of on-going mystery. Lifting a box lid to find a contrasting coloured interior is like the surprise of opening a gift or rediscovering a distant memory.

Grouped together, the pieces become like carefully placed fragments of a landscape. Abstracted elements of water, horizons or rock echo the smoke and flames of raku. Layers of subtle stoneware glazes wrap each pot and distant horizons are reflected in their surfaces.

"I am fascinated by the process of taking a soft, fluid material and transforming it into a solid object, layered with colour and imprinted with the process of firing. We can hold it in our hands and feel its strength yet at the same time, know its fragility. To me, this seems to be parallel with our human condition".

Raku firing gives an infinite variation to the pot's surface that makes each piece individual. The glazed pieces are rapidly fired outdoors in a gas kiln and quickly removed once they reach 1000 degrees centigrade. They are covered in wood shavings to insulate them, which burns into the clay, smoking the unglazed surfaces and giving a unique crackle to the pieces. Out of this intense activity come pieces that have been described by collectors as "meditations in clay".



Kate first set up her studio in Cockpit Arts, London in 1996 and now works from a studio at her home in West Kent. She has exhibited internationally since graduating in 1996, with a major show at Blackwell in 2008. Kate is a Professional Member of the Craft Potters Association and her work has been purchased for private and public collections, including British Airways, The British Embassy in St Petersburg and The Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool. In 2013, she was commissioned by the Director of The Ibaraki Museum in Japan to make 3 major installations of over 150 pieces for the Cheongju International Biennale in Korea.

Flow Jugs Stoneware
£145 - £325

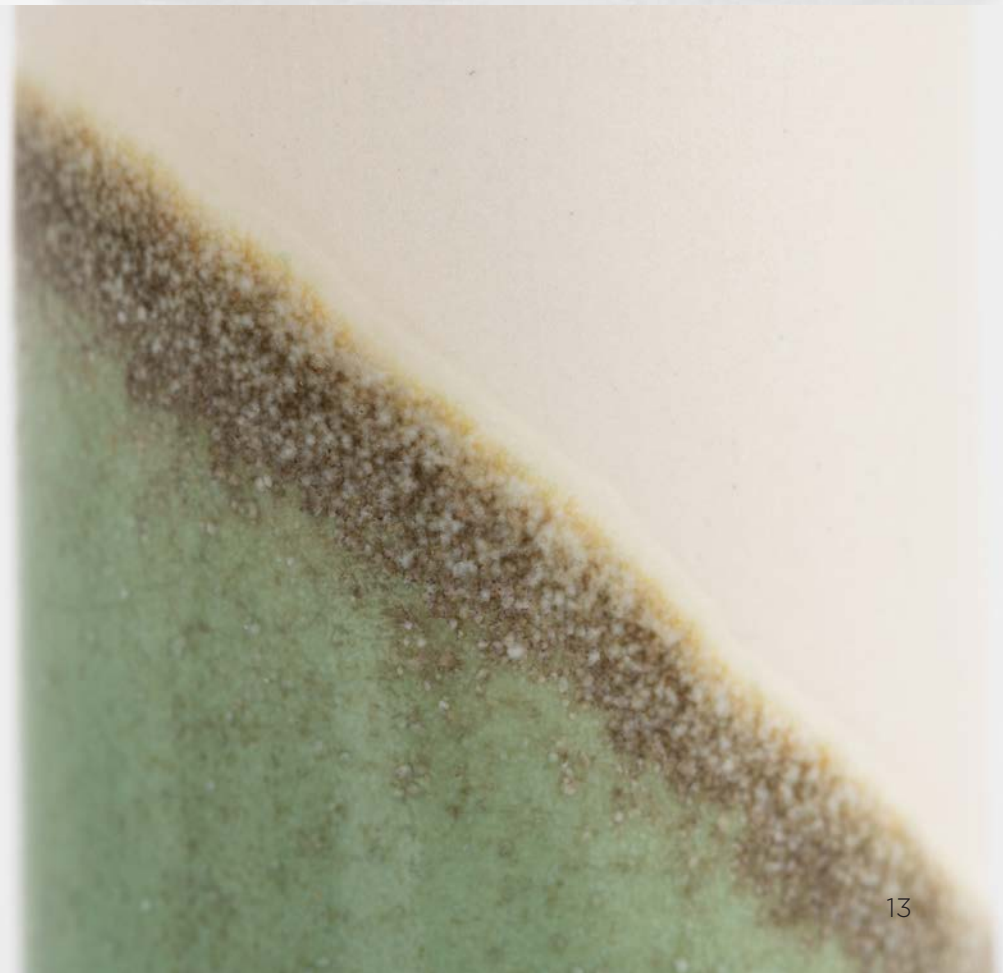




Luna Stoneware Sphere Pots
£85 each



South Downs Vessels
£95 - £245



Karen Birchwood Interview

What inspires you to paint?

Inspiration for a painting may come from a group of trees spotted on the horizon, a colour, or crops in a field creating patterns in the land. Sometimes it's a simple cup, a group of pots on a shelf, or a twisted wire on a beach creating a pattern. It can also be a strong connection to a place and by holding that image in my head it can translate into a painting. I often start a piece of work without a fixed idea of how it will develop, but from an initial sweep of colour, that memory starts to unfold onto the canvas.



What currently inspires your work?

The colour from a place or holiday is fundamental to the memory and it is the backbone to all my paintings. The palette that I used for this series of Highlands paintings came instinctively. The cool tones reflect the damp, clean air and the fresh wet grass after a storm. The hues rapidly change as clouds scurry by, with flashes of bright greens highlighted by the sun.

By contrast, when I travelled to India, the palette I used was strong and intense. Deep crimsons and an acid yellow that was drawn from the mustard fields we passed. From hints of gold and the rich indigo of the night to soft, pastel pinks. These colours reflect the heat and humidity of India and somehow capture the evocative smells of spices from street food.

What qualities do you appreciate most about Kate's ceramics?

The textures and colours of Kate's work really resonate with me. She captures the essence of the land in her pieces with simple curved lines that I also use to represent the slopes of the Scottish hills. The textures from her raku pots conjure up thoughts of pebbles on a beach or rocky outcrops, but with a subtlety that I admire and strive to achieve in my work. I love the way that Kate uses a deep turquoise glaze as a contrast inside a pot, initially hidden yet powerfully completing the piece.



Highland 3
£1,300 | 101 x 43cm



Table Collection 6
£595 | 44.5 x 44.5cm

Hill Mist 1
£2,000 | 118 x 94cm









Kate Schuricht Interview

Do you have a connection with a certain colour or combinations of colours?

I naturally gravitate towards a green, blue and monochrome palette in my work. These hues resonate with me, capturing the elements and evoking the sea, sky and land.



Using wood with my ceramics allows me to broaden out to the warm hues of cherry and walnut and explore how the glazes work with these beautiful tones and textures. Combining wood and flower colours with my wall vases and pots makes for a deeply satisfying and grounding combination.

What inspires your collections?

Displaying my work in a setting brings a whole new life to the pieces, as they become like human or architectural parts of a landscape. I enjoy how the relationship shifts between the scale, forms and colours of my pots and work with the final placement of pieces in mind when I am making. I am interested in the innate power of objects to convey and evoke emotions, and my designs are partly inspired by historical and contemporary boxes and containers.

How do you see your work relating to Karen's paintings?

Having worked together with Karen for exhibitions and Open Studios, I think we both have a very intuitive way of embracing the subject of our work and a similar sense of place and space. Although Karen's approach to her paintings is expansive and loose, there is a real balance in her work that I can relate to. The placement of objects is very significant to me and her marks on the canvas have not only a freedom, but also a precision. Our work often fits seamlessly together in a setting. Sometimes it can feel as though we are briefly seeing the world through the same eyes.

Pebble Pots
£140 - £165



Luna Stoneware Sphere Pots
£165 - £350







Table Top 2
£410 | 36.5 x 43cm



Table Top 1
£410 | 36.5 x 43cm



Shifting Colours 4
£795 | 70 x 45.5cm



Shifting Colours 3
£795 | 70 x 45.5cm

Bound Stoneware Containers
£100 each



Highland 5
£875 | 65 x 65cm





Raku Vessels
£100 - £170





Ellipse Oval Containers
£130 - £175





Hill Mist 2
£1,900 | 94 x 94cm

Soft Focus 1
£285 | 24 x 24cm









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Set in the heart of Padstow, the gallery boasts a spacious 57m² of retail space spread over two floors in a charming Grade II listed property. Padstow Gallery is a truly independent outlet which sources an exclusive range of affordable work by both up-and-coming and established British artists in a range of mediums directly from the makers and creators.

Being based in Cornwall has certainly influenced the style of the gallery which has a strong focus around the concept of 'edges' and 'boundaries' - where land meets sky - a celebration of the flora and fauna of our countryside, and ruggedness of our natural coastline. Original paintings sit alongside a considered range of contemporary ceramics, sculpture, jewellery and handmade prints from National artists.

"Many of you will have met me before and will already know that I am passionate about stocking superior quality original works from professional artists. I love what I do, the people I meet, the artists that I represent, and I hope that enthusiasm shows in every interaction" Liz Francis, Gallery Owner



PADSTOW GALLERY

11 Lanadwell St, Padstow, PL28 8AN, U.K.

www.padstowgallery.co.uk info@padstowgallery.co.uk

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