

The background of the image is a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors including blue, green, yellow, red, and purple, creating a textured, artistic effect. The central text is set against a solid dark blue rectangular field.

Michael F. Rumsby

RIVIERA



I first visited the French Riviera as Gitane-smoking art student in 1987. The memory of waking up on that first morning, perched high above the tumbling rooftops of the town, shadows of shutter slats carved across the bed sheets, the smell of lilac rising like tiny Champagne bubbles racing from the terrace below, is vivid. The aroma of coffee beans and the hum of chatter from the Café de Paris; it all conspired to awaken my innocence and unwittingly shaped who I was to become.

Life on the Riviera nourishes the soul in a way that is at once intoxicating and immediately addictive. It bites you like a vampire, and from that moment you live every day needing it more.

Thirty years and at least thirty visits later to that gloriously 'beautiful place for beautiful people' The Riviera still sits upon the altar of my heart, and I yearn for its utter abandonment of reality more and more. The mixologist's dream, it's a perfect cocktail of beauty and danger served in a sparkingly fine piece of glassware.

Whilst not yet home – I had to settle for the vineyards and sunshine of Southwest France for now - I regularly visit Cannes, Antibes, Nice and St Tropez for my annual fix of beauty and abandonment. Awaking to the smells and sounds of life there devours and intoxicates me like a fine wine.

In 2023 I decided to take more time to explore myself and to revisit places that had shaped me as an adolescent. And it was still there – by the caseload. On the narrow streets of Antibes in the September sun, a bustling flower market, champagne corks popping at midday, cigarette smoke that anywhere else would make me choke; it all came flooding back and I was 19 again. It was like time was standing still around me, entirely motionless yet shooting from within was the sensational energy, the excitement rising inside you until you feel you'll drown still gasping for more. To keep the excitement alive, I would have to immerse myself in a painting expedition like no other I'd tried.

The Collection of more than 70 works is my attempt to capture, through the beauty of local scenery and vistas, the intoxicating energy and abandonment that has become synonymous with the region across two centuries and continues to reciprocally consume us more than we consume it. The work plays on my own duality of memory and present, of confidence and fear. It plays on the blurring of beauty and reality, on the emptiness of people's fulfilled lives – faceless starlets, blinded by success and silenced by excess.

My work draws on the colours and light of the Riviera coastline from St Tropez to Riomaggiore in Italy. But moreover, it's a body of work that is painted from the heart – from the memory of that first morning when my senses were so startlingly awoken as a 19-year-old student. The work is a timeless expression of the sensitivity felt by all who have been touched by the beautiful duality of the Riviera; playground of the rich and famous, home to royalty, the reserve of the few, but a place where, for all its excess, it's landscape of superlatives, the original beauty of its nature can never be obliterated; a haven for so many who simply wish to stare at the purple mountains to the north and drink up the intense turquoise below their perches to the south.

- Michael F Rumsby

LIMITED EDITIONS

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Embellished Stretched Canvas Edition of 95

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£1,250



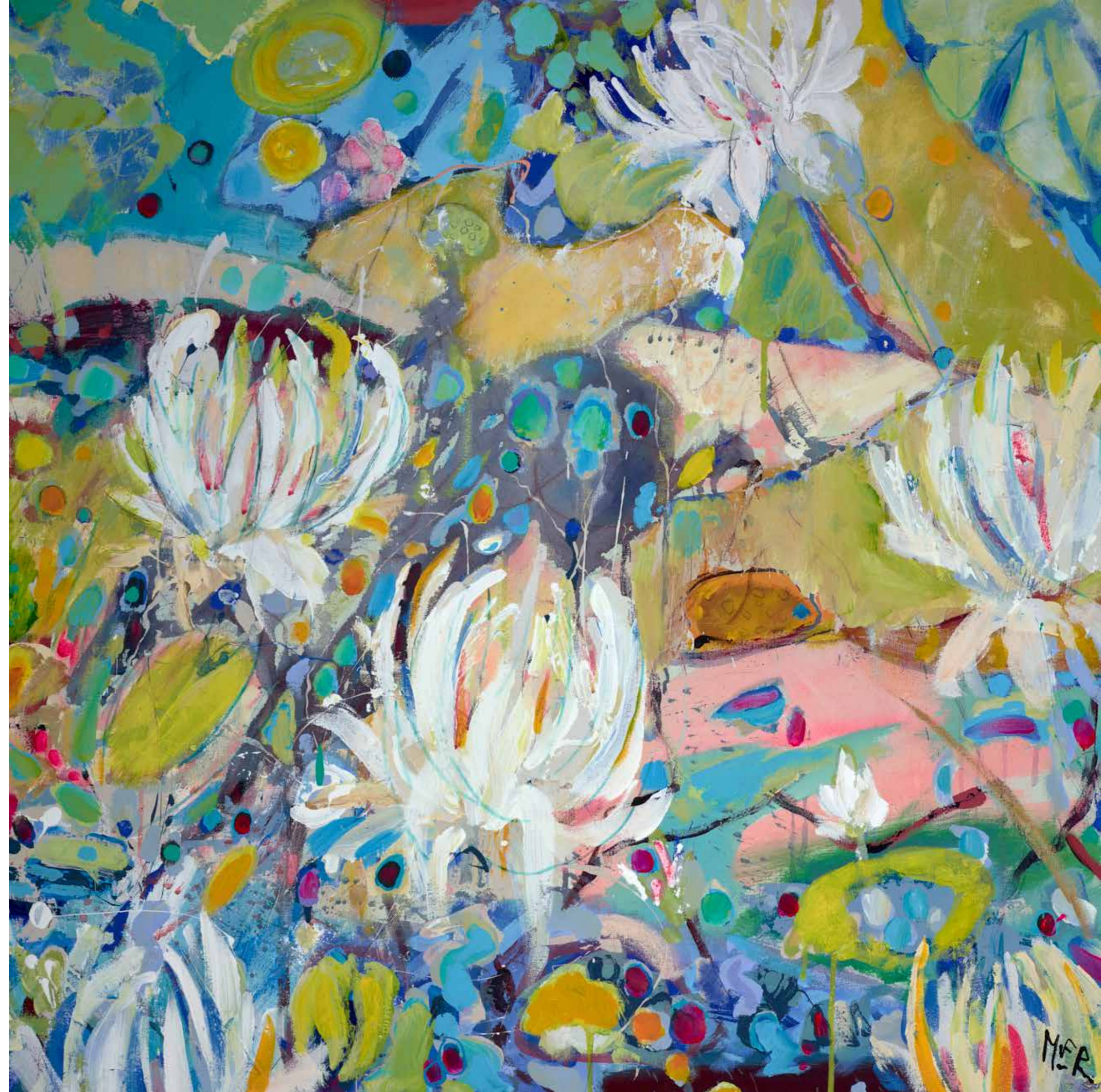
Borrowed Sundays
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This new collection of original paintings is true joy to behold, with breathtaking beach and landscape scenes, vibrant village vistas and striking still life studies that will transport you to the magical region of the French Riviera.

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Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
33 x 33"
£11,595



Filtration II
Original Painting on Box Canvas
39 x 39"
£9,695



Filtration III
Original Painting on Box Canvas
39 x 39"
£9,695





Above Me
Original Painting on Box Canvas
8 x 16"
£3,750



Blue
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
26 x 39"
£9,695



The Tuscan Vase
Original Painting on Box Canvas
47 x 32"
£12,950



Blue Marsh
Original Painting on Box Canvas
39 x 39"
£9,695



A Week in Bloom
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
24 x 24"
£7,495

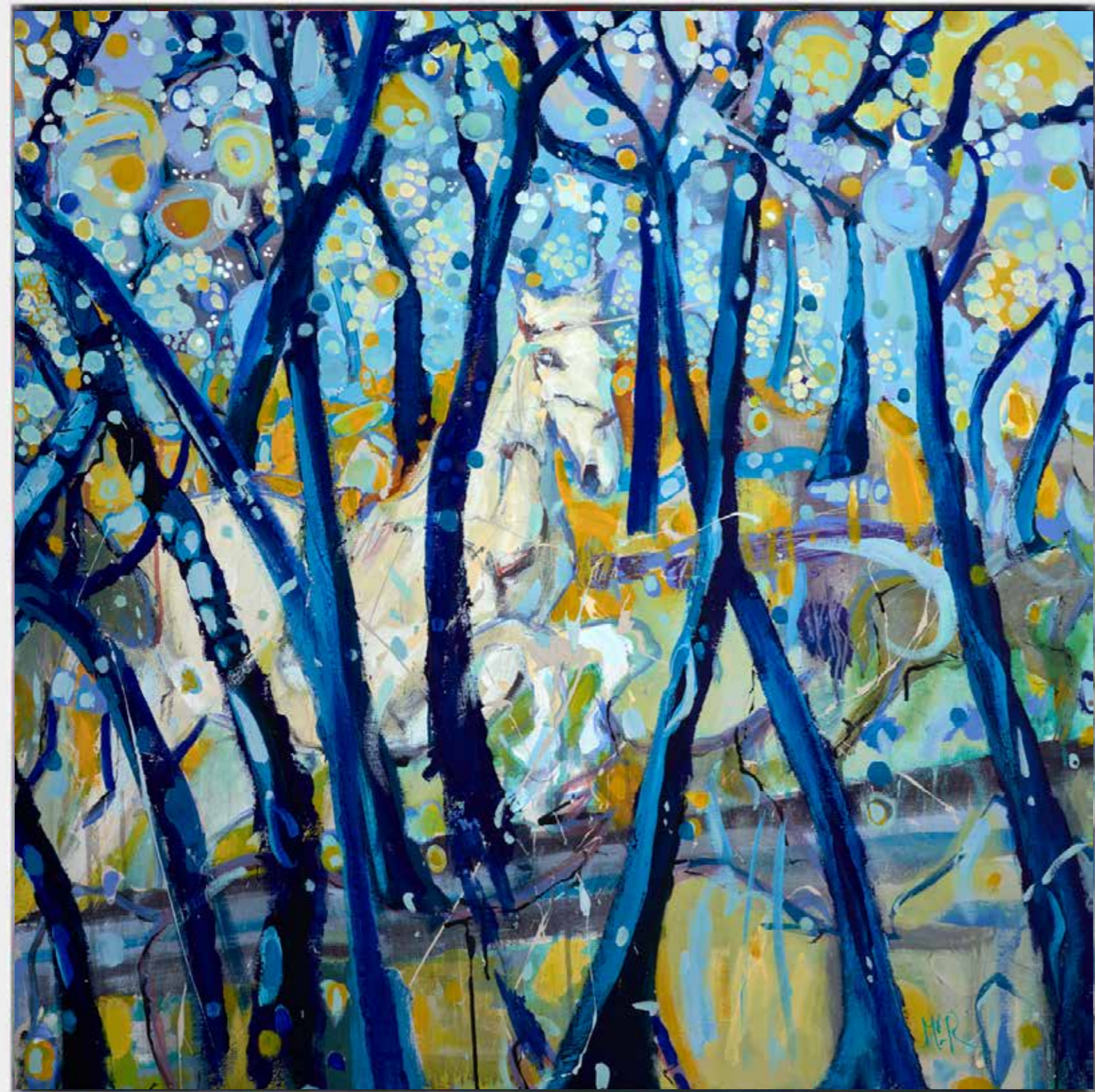


Infusion
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
24 x 24"
£7,495



Dreamland
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
26 x 39"
£9,695

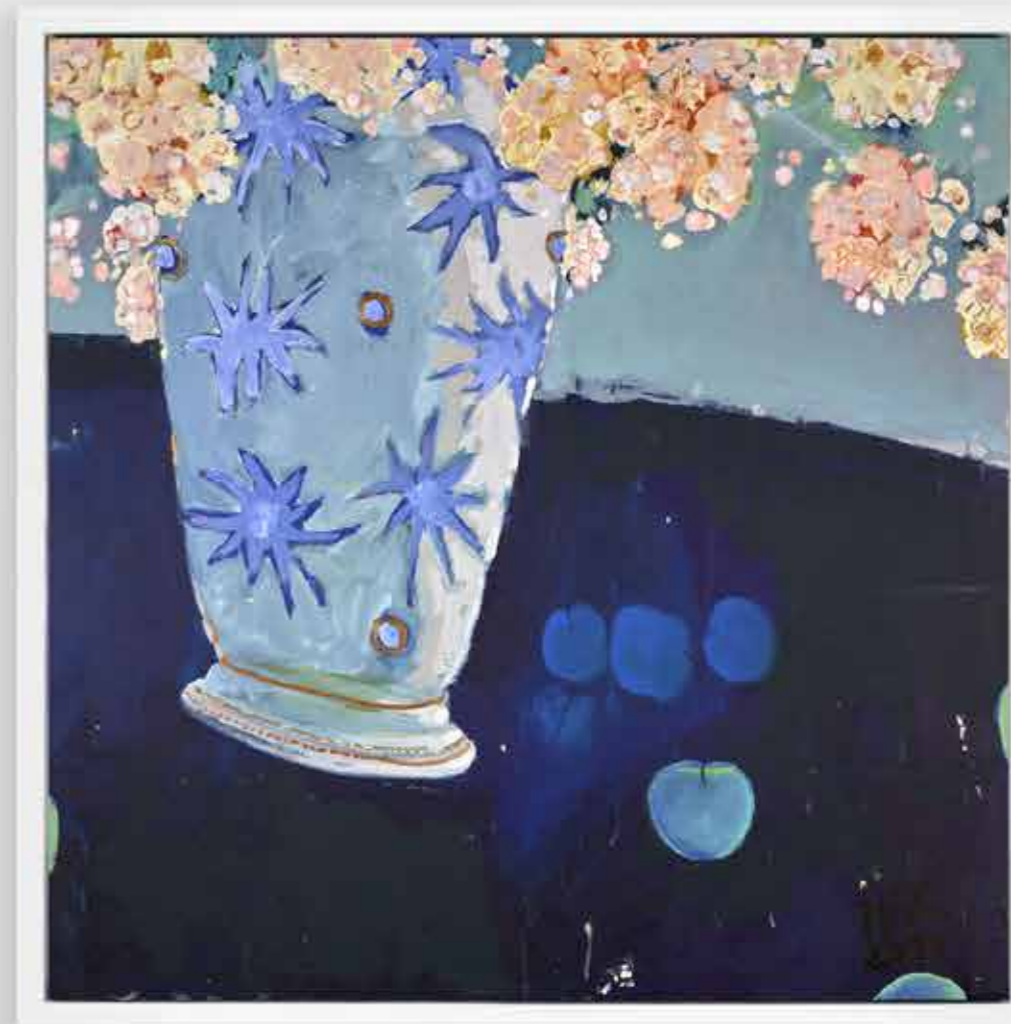




Out of The Woods
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
39 x 39"
£9,695



The Sweetness of Mango
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
39 x 39"
£9,695



Ghost Apple
Original Painting on Box Canvas
39 x 39"
£9,695



The Morning Light, Purple Iris
Original Painting on Box Canvas
24 x 28"
£5,495

It's a Man's World
Original Painting on Box Canvas
32 x 32"
£9,695





Oriental Fragmentation
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
26 x 36"
£9,695

The Theatre of Life III
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
43 x 71"
£18,750





Fallen
Original Painting on Box Canvas
16 x 16"
£5,495



Field Down the Road
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
20 x 20"
£4,450



Rock Pool up the Road
Original Painting on Stretched Canvas
19 x 19"
£4,450

The Silk Cushion
Original Painting on Box Canvas
28 x 28"
£8,395



