

# THE 'CHERRY' INGRAM BLOSSOM RESIDENCY



*Cherry by the Stone, 2021. Oil on canvas.*

## EMMA GREEN

### GS

GALLOPER-SANDS

*Fine Art & Artisan Crafts*

## INTRODUCTION *by* JASON GATHORNE-HARDY

One of my early memories is from Doddington Hall in Lincolnshire – my mother’s childhood home. My Uncle Antony Jarvis gathered a group of us, all children, under the blossom-laden boughs of a thick-trunked veteran cherry tree. He then took hold of some lower branches and gave them a good prolonged shake. We all disappeared under a cascade of delicate, fragrant petals. I remember the beautiful surprise of it : the soft coolness of the tumbling blossom on my face and the apparently endless waterfall of flowers. The memory stayed with me. Somehow it now feels symbolic of spring : of renewal and the recycling of life.

In moving to White House Farm, creating the Alde Valley Spring Festival and now Galloper-Sands, I often felt that something was missing. For many years I tied bright ribbons to trees around the yards and to arches over gateways at the farm. The intention was to provide a sense of welcome and to brighten the landscape. But in reality, they were a substitute for flowering cherry trees with their fresh foliage and abundant pink blossom - a Suffolk *sakura*. In 2010/11 I sought the advice of Jon Rose at Botanica Plant Nursery and planted a small selection of flowering cherries at the farm, grouped around the farmhouse.

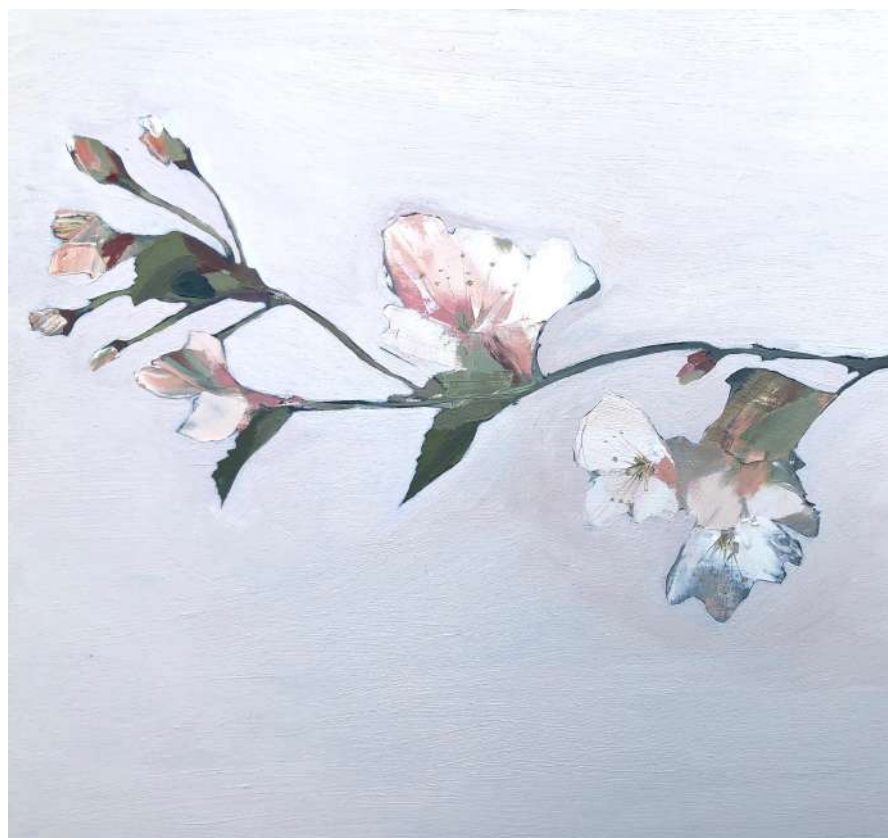
This in turn led me to a greater appreciation of the many cherry varieties that are available from nurseries – and to the extraordinary range of Japanese cherries. With help from Botanica, I started planting more trees around the fields including *Prunus Avium*, *P. Pink Perfection*, *P. Kanzan* and *P. Okame*. In the winter of 2018/2019, to support our 2018 Festival theme of *Florabundance*, I planted another 22+ flowering cherry and crab apple trees. I later bought in a further 8 potted specimen trees from Botanica. In the spring of 2019, these trees all became the subject of a *Hedge Hut Blossom Painting Residency* with Emma Green.

The remaining part of this story takes a curious twist. I had promised Emma that we would include the Blossom Paintings in the 2020 Spring Festival Exhibition – which was to be a celebration of birds, flight and migration. Initially, the connection between birds and the blossom paintings was to be a beautiful diptych by Emma, *Prunus Avium (Wild Cherry) II*, accompanied by a sound composition *Sakura avem* by musicians Dide Siemmond and Charly Jolly, working as the duo *Polymix*. But Jon Rose mentioned a cherry connection to Benenden in Kent – the home of my father’s family at the turn of the last century. This led me to the wonderful book ‘*Cherry*’ Ingram, *The Englishman Who Saved Japan’s Blossoms* by writer and journalist Naoko Abe. It is about the life of ornithologist and cherry saviour Collingwood ‘Cherry’ Ingram. The book describes how in the spring of 1920 two blossoming cherry trees in the garden of a house called the Grange in Benenden inspired in Ingram a lifelong passion for Japanese flowering cherries. He named these unidentified trees *Hokusai*. The house was built by my great, great grand- father – who may also have been responsible for planting the *Hokusai* cherry trees.

The rest, as they say, is history. Except that Naoko Abe’s beautiful book has allowed much more to happen. Fascinated by all these links, I placed a much larger order for cherry trees with Jon Rose in early 2020 to create the beginnings of a formal Collection at the farm; and then invited Emma Green back to paint the flowers for *The ‘Cherry’ Ingram Blossom Residency*, the subject of this Catalogue. And on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020, to celebrate the centenary of ‘Cherry’ Ingram finding the original *Hokusai* trees in Benenden, Naoko Abe and her husband Paul joined descendants of Collingwood Ingram as Guests of Honour for a planting ceremony of *Okame*, *Hokusai* and *Kursar* cherry trees at the east end of the farm’s zoom oak picnic table.

Jason Gathorne-Hardy (Festival Curator). White House Farm, Great Glemham.

## FOREWORD *by* NAKO ABE



*Prunus Taihaku IV, 2020*

[Detail]

Oil on Board

H280mm

W810mm

Cherry blossoms are a harbinger of spring, offering a warm and welcome new dawn after the long winter.

In Japan, for more than 2,000 years, cherry blossoms have been symbols of life, peace, hope and inspiration. They also symbolise love, their delicate wispy petals connecting and bonding families and friends.

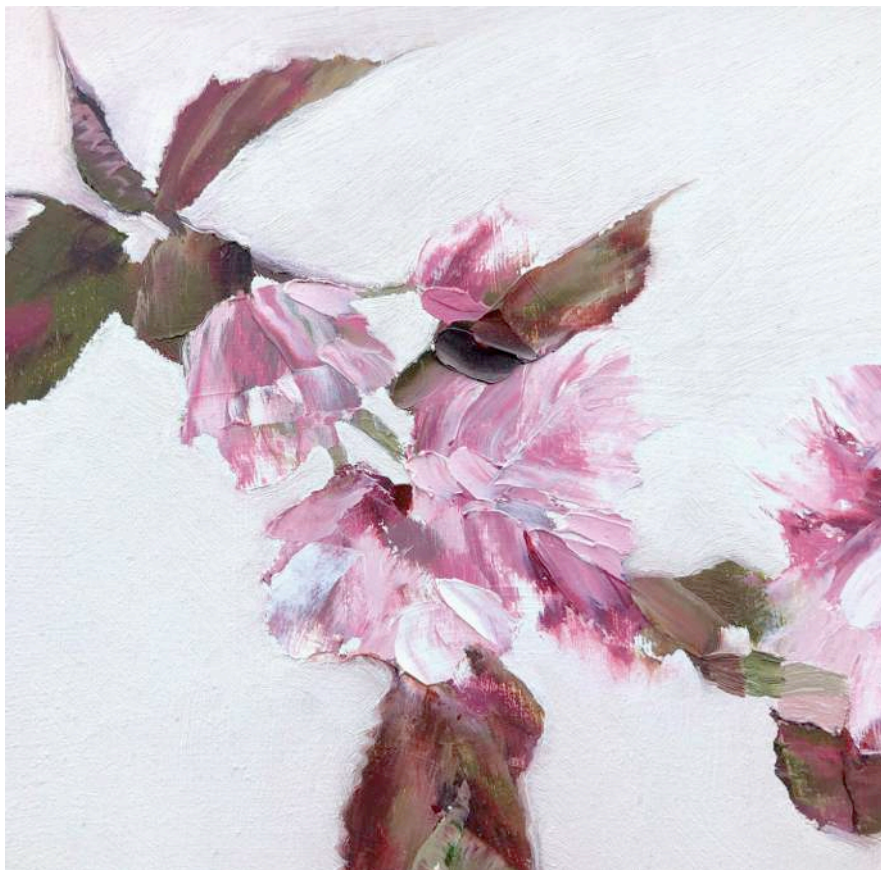
A few years ago, I was fortunate to discover an English gentleman, Collingwood Ingram (1880-1981), who had fallen in love with Japanese cherry blossoms at the beginning of the 20th century. He went to Japan three times and brought back many scions to plant in his garden in Benenden, Kent. He then spread them to every corner of the UK and beyond.

It seemed so unusual to me that Ingram could love cherry blossoms as much as, or more than, the Japanese. His achievements in creating and disseminating cherry varieties were incredible, but yet he was little known. So I was more than happy to give him the recognition he deserved in my first English book, *'Cherry' Ingram, The Englishman Who Saved Japan's Blossoms*, which was published in March 2019.

Ingram had a magnificent cherry collection at his home, The Grange. At its peak, it contained about 130 different varieties and was the largest in the world. Ingram also saved some of the most beautiful varieties, including the *Taihaku*, or great white cherry, which had gone extinct in Japan. *Taihaku* was safely returned to Japan by Ingram in 1932 and is now one of the most admired cherry varieties in the world.

It was equally surprising to me to discover that so many cherry trees – more than 55 trees from over 15 varieties -- were blooming at White House Farm in Great Glemham, Suffolk. Jason Gathorne-Hardy is a cherry lover and a descendant of the first Earl of Cranbrook, who built Ingram's former residence, The Grange.

Amazingly, Ingram's 'love affair' with cherry blossoms was triggered in the spring of 1920 by the sight of two mature Japanese cherry trees at The Grange that the first Earl of Cranbrook most likely planted. Ingram later named the trees *Hokusai*.



*Prunus Hokusai, 2020*

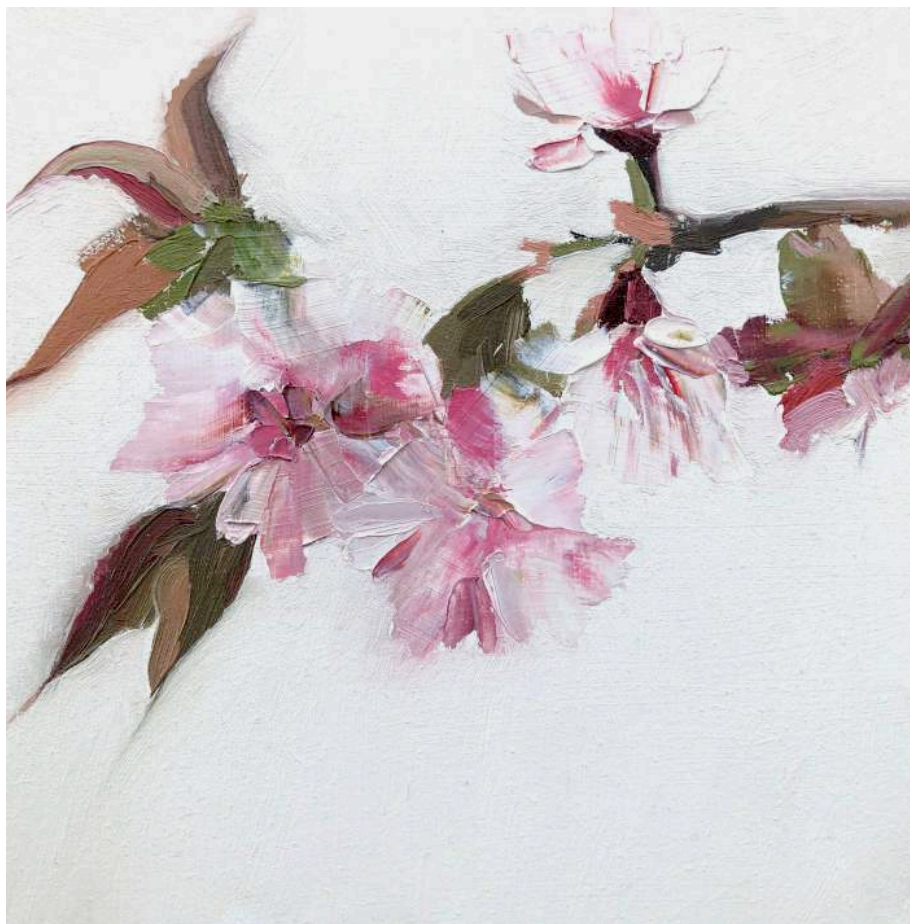
Oil on Board  
H150mm  
W150mm

To celebrate this serendipitous connection and to mark the 100th anniversary of Ingram's encounter with the *Hokusai* trees at The Grange, a ceremony was held at White House Farm on 6th March 2020. I was honoured to attend it with my husband Paul and two of Ingram's grandchildren. Together, we planted three more cherry varieties --- *Okame*, *Kursar* and *Hokusai*. The first two were Ingram's creations. It is heart-warming that cherry trees have reconnected the Ingram and the Gathorne-Hardy families through my book.

The blossoms in the Farm have now been painted by the talented artist Emma Green during her 'Cherry' Ingram Blossom Residency for the Alde Valley Spring Festival 2020. Emma worked from her own studio because of the Covid-19 pandemic, receiving images of the flowers from the Farm.



This new catalogue contains her second and third group of blossom paintings. It includes the *Taihaku*, *Hokusai*, *Okame* and *Asano* varieties.



*Prunus Matsumae Fuki*,  
2020

Oil on Board  
H150mm  
W150mm

Emma painted the remarkably large, pure white flowers of *Taihaku* with striking inner force. She injected vitality into the delicate petals of ‘*Okame*’, while her *Asano* exudes gracious but solid nobility. *Asano* is a variety that Ingram discovered deep in the mountains of central Japan on a cherry hunting trip in 1926. Another variety amongst her works, *Matsumae Fuki*, is a modern cultivar, which arrived in England in 1993 as a gift from Masatoshi Asari, a so-called ‘cherry guardian’ in Hokkaido, Japan.

Emma’s beautiful cherry-blossom paintings are a joy to behold, and they reflect Asari’s belief that *sakura* bring people together and spread peace and serenity throughout the world.

Naoko Abe. Journalist and writer, author of ‘*Cherry*’ Ingram, *The Englishman Who Saved Japan’s Blossoms* \*

\* ‘*Cherry*’ Ingram, *The Englishman Who Saved Japan’s Blossoms*

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*Prunus Royal Burgundy* 2020  
Oil on board. H280mm W150mm  
£450



*Prunus Okame* 2020  
Oil on board. H280mm W150mm  
£450





*Prunus Shirofugen*  
Oil on Board. H150mm W150mm  
£395 (framed)





*Prunus Shirofugen*  
Oil on Board. H150mm W150mm  
£395 (framed)

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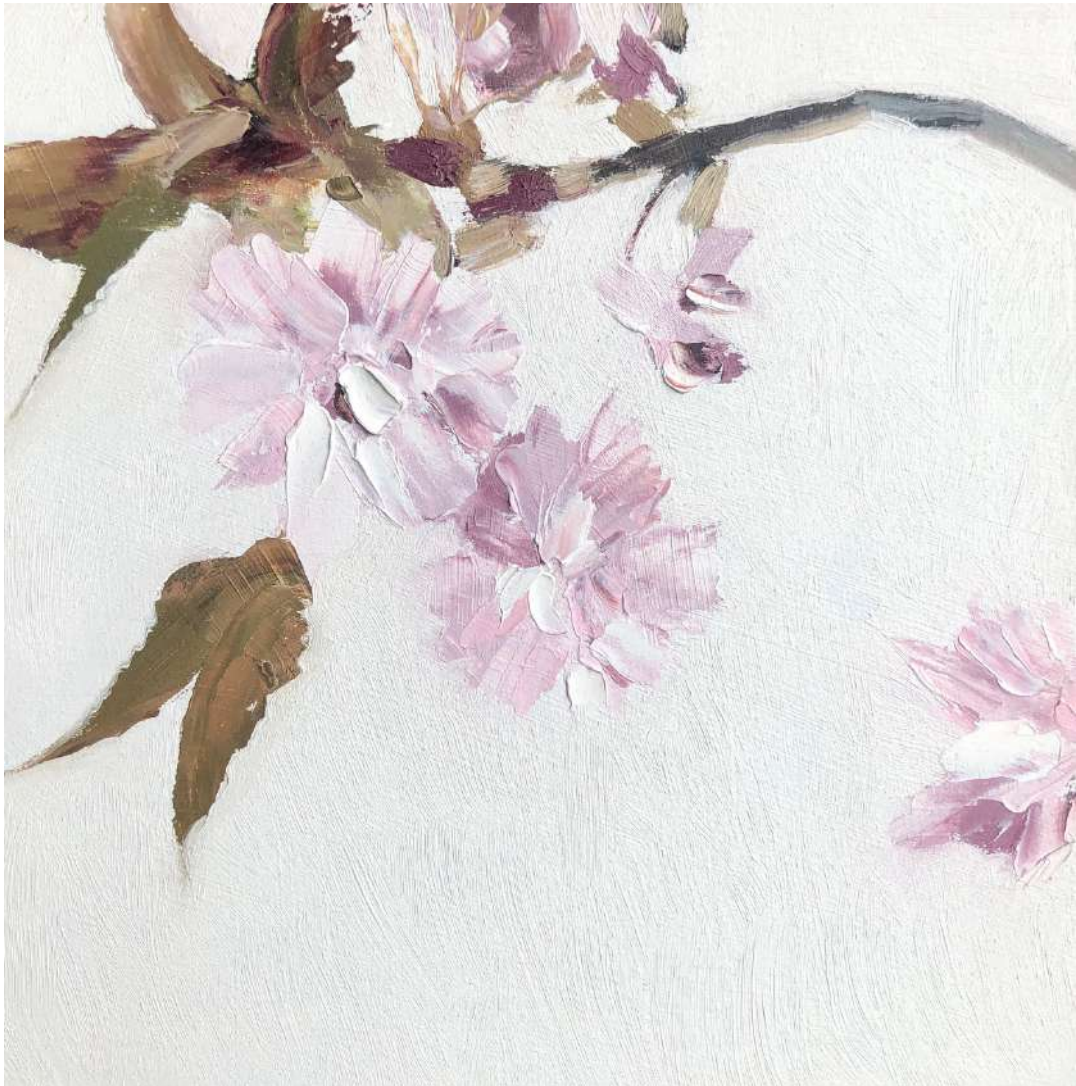
*Cherry by the Stone* 2020  
Oil on canvas. H820mm W760mm  
£2,250





*Prunus Taihaku V* 2020/21  
Oil on board. H150mm W150mm  
£395

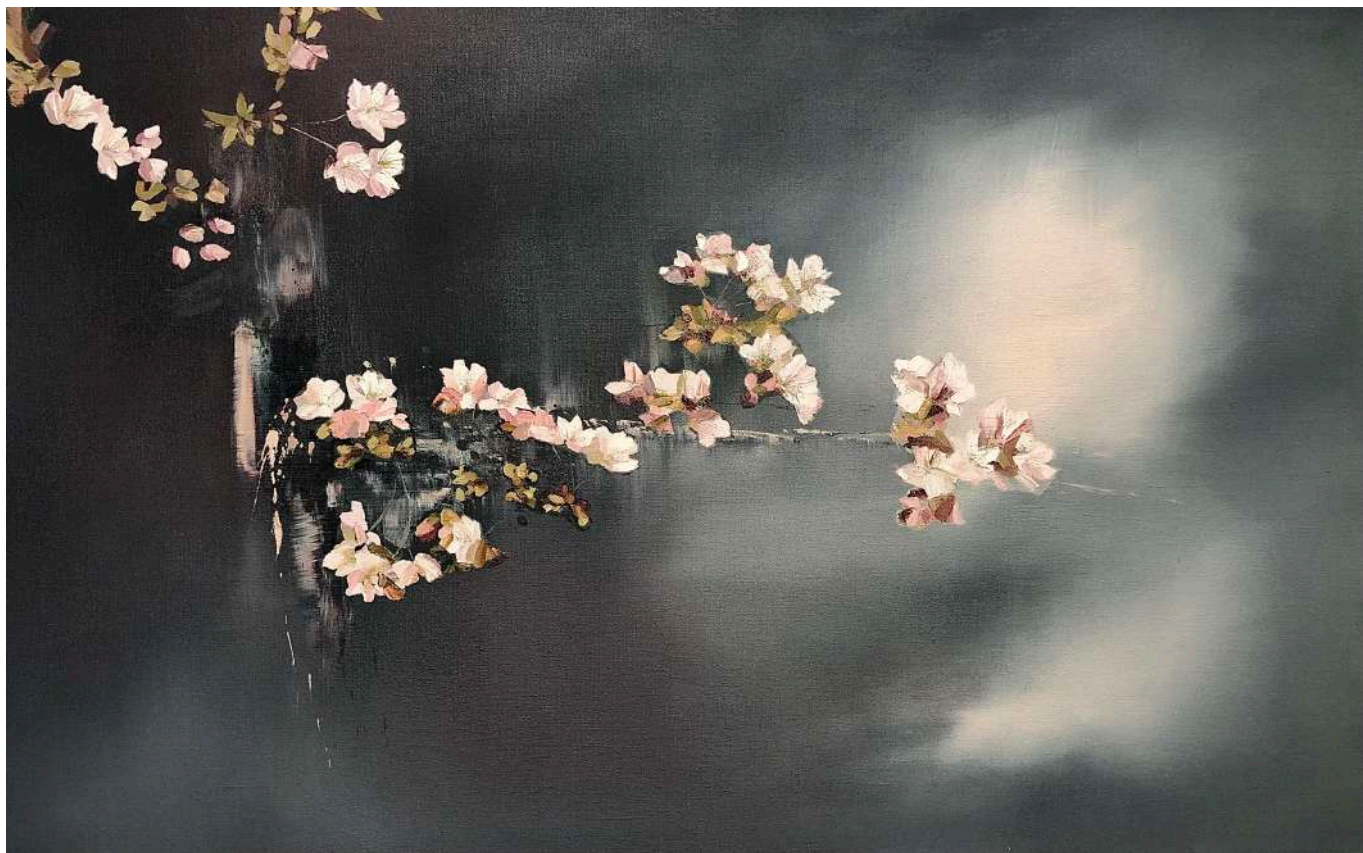




*Weeping Cherry* 2020/21  
Oil on board. H150mm W150mm  
£395



*Royal Burgundy* 2021  
Oil on board. H1100mm W400mm  
£495



*Cherry on the Straits* 2021

Oil on canvas. H600mm W945mm

£2,250





*Prunus Hokusai* 2021

Oil on on board. H100mm W400mm

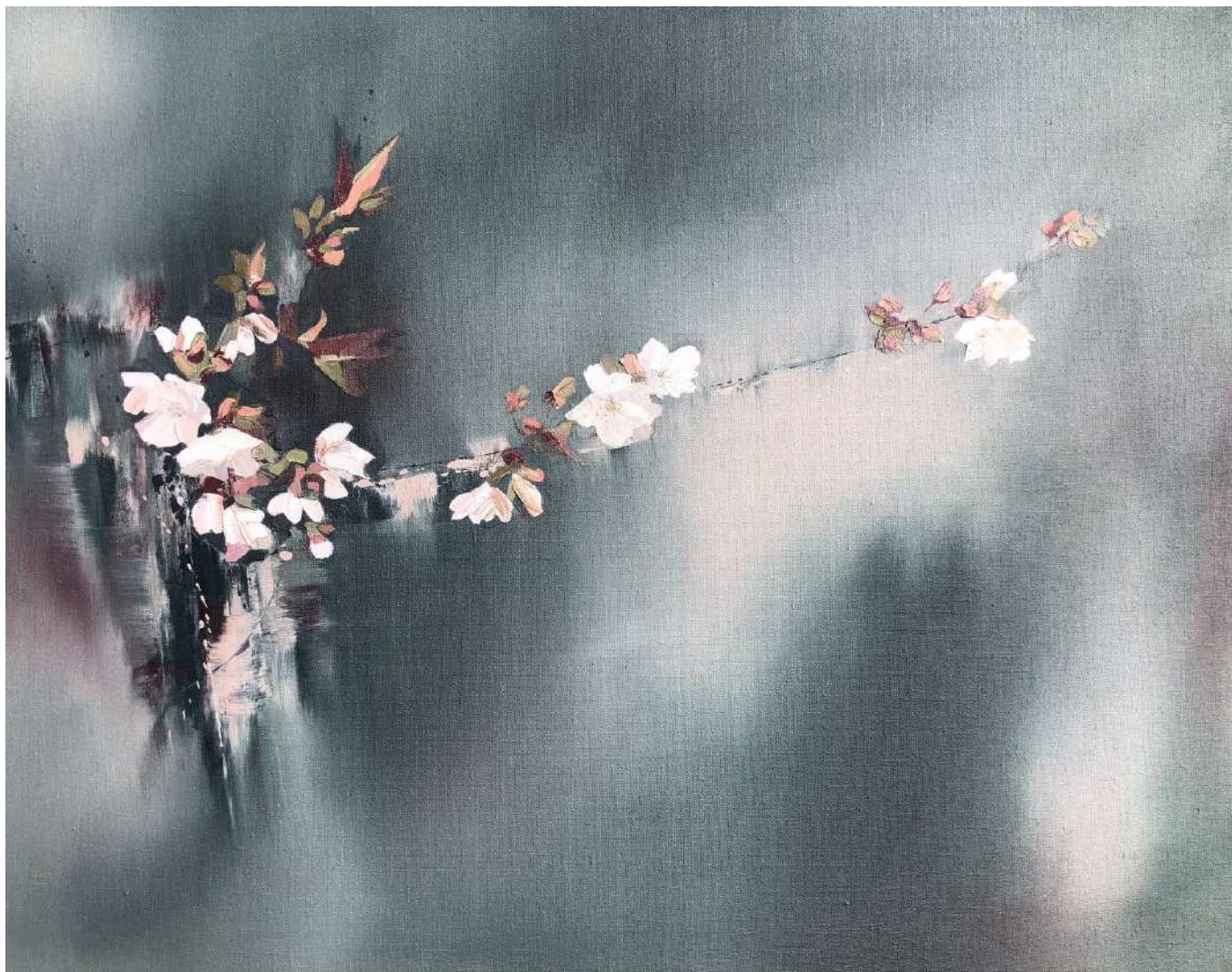
£495



*Prunus at the Gate* 2021

Oil on on board. H1100mm W400mm

£495

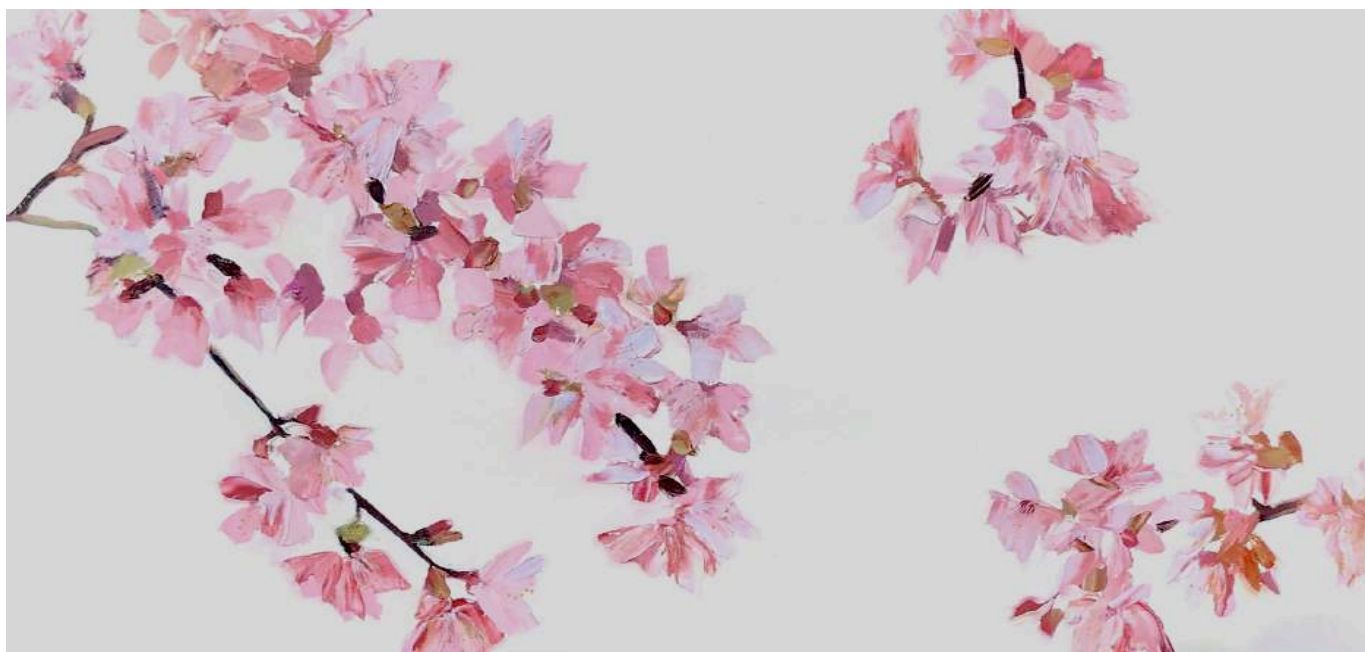


*Taihaku VI* 2021

Oil on canvas. H550mm W700mm

£1,950





*Prunus Okame* 2021  
Oil on board. H310mm W180mm  
£495



*Prunus Pink Shell* 2020  
Oil on board. H150mm W150mm  
£395

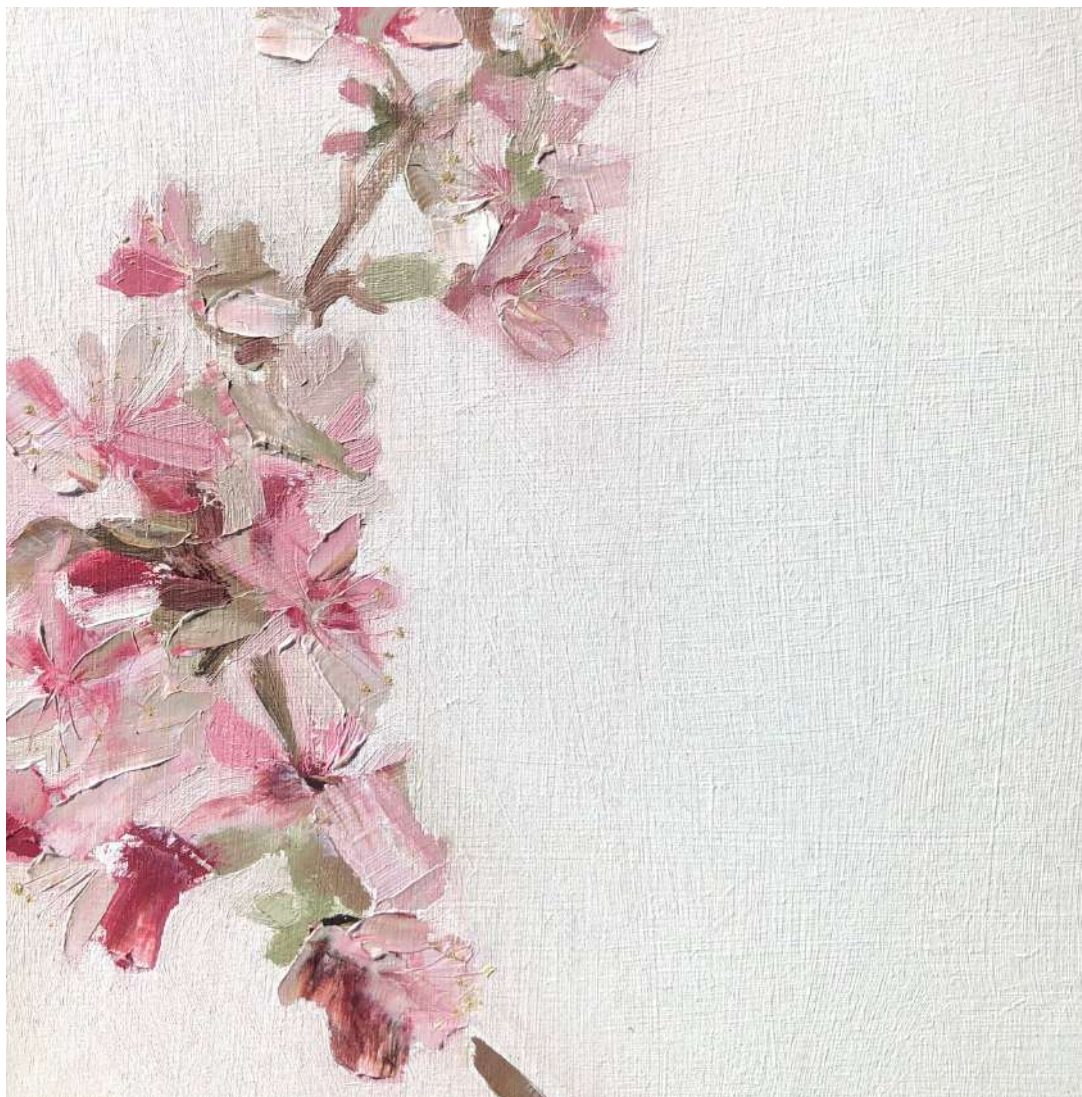


*Almond I, Great Glemham House 2020*  
Oil on board. H150mm W150mm  
£395





*Prunus Horinji* 2020  
Oil on board. H180mm W250mm  
£450



*Prunus Okame I* 2020  
Oil on board. H150mm W150mm  
£395





*Prunus Matsumae Fuki* 2020  
Oil on board. H150mm W150mm  
£395





*Prunus Accolade* 2021  
Oil on board. H150mm W280mm  
£450



*Prunus Kursar* 2021  
Oil on board. H120mm W95mm  
£265



*Prunus Matsumae Fuki II* 2020  
Oil on board. H95mm W180mm  
£345





*Prunus Shiroyugen* 2020  
Oil on board. H95mm W180mm  
£345



*Prunus Okame* 2021  
Oil on board. H120mm W95mm  
£265

Galloper-Sands is the online gallery for The Alde Valley Spring Festival Ltd

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