

PERIENNE CHRISTIAN



Dreaming, 2022. Watercolour on paper. H860mm W1140mm.

ALIVE IN THE LANDSCAPE

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DREAMING A NEW DREAM

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INTRODUCTION : JASON GATHORNE-HARDY

This is the second major collection of new paintings and etchings to emerge from *Alive in the Landscape*, our ongoing residency collaboration with Perienne Christian. This has focused on work that related to wild plants and the Suffolk shoreline near the artist's home in Bawdsey on the Deben Peninsula. This low-lying land has a character all of its own. It is bordered on the one side by the North Sea, into which it yields its soft, sandy cliffs with the passing tides; and on the other by the meandering creeks, saltings and mudflats of the Deben Estuary.

Much of the raised, free-draining ground between the sea and the estuary is farmland, cultivated intensively and cropped each year. But running through this rump of agricultural land is a filigree network of verges, hedgerows, woodland, tracks and lanes that are refugia for wildlife : small mammals, birds, insects and other invertebrates – and also for wild plants. Many of these, although considered weeds, have threads of folklore and histories of medicinal uses associated with them. From this perspective, many of these wild plants were once viewed more as companions in our landscape : a source of support and help, rather than 'weeds' to be controlled or eradicated. Beyond the worked land of the farms, the view gives way to mudflats and saltmarshes along the river's edge; and to a strip of slumping, sandy cliffs and shingle along the coast. These are home to rarer plants such as sea kale and the sea pea.

It is easy to think that this landscape is permanent – a view that is reinforced by its fixed appearance on ordinance survey maps. But in reality both edges of the Peninsula are in a state of continual flux. Along the coast, stretches of elevated ground are undermined by the action of the tides. The soft cliffs frequently collapse into the sea, revealing fossil sharks' teeth or woolly mammoth bones. In other areas, the land is growing outwards and expanding as shingle is deposited in long drifts along the shoreline.

This endless interchange between land and sea, between solid ground and water, leaves lanes that seem to lead to nowhere and whole villages, harbours and towns that have vanished all together and survive only in memory or modern-day myths. In this sense, the soft Suffolk shoreline can become almost a dream scape : a territory in which everything has substance, but no permanence - a place in which the remembered and the imagined, the lost and the re-conceived all intermingle.

In this latest collection of work, titled *Dreaming a New Dream*, Perienne captures these subtle and elusive qualities of the Suffolk coast through paintings, etchings and monoprints. She brings these qualities to the fore, and in doing so, imbues the land and sea with bright and magical light. The latest watercolour paintings hum with energy and vibrancy. This light is drawn partly from the moon and the stars, including the fiery orb of the sun, but also from the artist's own imagination and her way of seeing her surroundings : a delicate yet robust living landscape populated by people, memories, birds, dreams and medicinal plants.

As Perienne's work grows in scale, depth and confidence, the viewer is increasingly drawn into her vision of the world – and it is a fascinating and deeply engaging place to behold. Her latest paintings, prints and etchings, as much as the plants that she studies, seem to guide the viewer on a journey, offering a window into a rich and visually vibrant world.

Jason Gathorne-Hardy. White House Farm. August 2022.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT : PERIENNE CHRISTIAN

Alive in the Landscape : Dreaming a New Dream

These works - a collection of new paintings, etchings and monoprints - take their inspiration from the landscape I live in, on a wild and isolated Suffolk coastline. At the end of my road, there are magical ponds that lie just behind the sea wall and glisten with birdlife and magic.

'I sense 'otherness' when I am there, worlds beyond this world and this knowing brings a peace to the stuff of everyday life. When I paint I'm responding to both what I see and this 'otherness' and I allow the unseen elements to guide me. Sometimes I'm surprised by what appears, but it always carries an energy of place.

Perienne Christian. Bawdsey. August 2022.

NOTE

For her Galloper-Sands Residency Exhibition, Perienne will also be recreating the participatory wild plant medicine experience from her recent residency exhibition at the Lookout in Aldeburgh, linking the two exhibitions. This is offered in the Old Dairy at the farm, alongside the exhibition of paintings, etchings and monoprints. Visitors are invited to take part in this and learn more about the wild plants that populate our coastal landscape.

To support this part of the exhibition, we have added a small selection of books about wild plants and their medicinal uses. These were generously gifted to the farm by Emily Richardson in memory of her mother, the writer Rosamond Richardson – author of *Country Wisdom* and *Waiting for the Albino Dunnock – How Birds Can Change Your Life*. Each of the books is graced by an *Ex Libris* plate created by Perienne Christian. The original etching for the bookplate is also on show.

GUEST WRITER : SARAH SALWAY

White House Farm and Galloper-Sands are both involved with an ongoing residency project called *Writing at Great Glemham*. This offers writers time to rest, reflect and work in the beautiful surroundings of the Upper Alde Valley – the home of George Crabbe, HW Freeman, Ronald Blythe, Hugh Barrett, George Ewart Evans and more recently Melissa Harrison.

We invited Sarah Salway, a previous recipient of a Writing Residency and also a guest writer for Perienne Christian's previous solo show, to respond to *Alive in the Landscape ~ Dreaming a New Dream*. The result is a wonderful selection of new poems that have come into being through this collaboration.

In tribute to the work of both the artist and the writer, we have gathered together images of Perienne's paintings and Sarah's poems in a separate publication *Alive in the Landscape ~ Dreaming a New Dream*, which is available in both digital and printed format. We have also reproduced three of the poems at the end of the catalogue.



Dreaming, 2022.

Watercolour on paper
H860mm W1140mm [framed]
£2,250



Held in the Landscape, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H720mm W850mm [framed]
£1,450



Among the Reeds, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H370mm W470mm [framed]
£650



Shifting, 2021

Watercolour on paper
H280mm W380mm [framed]
£650



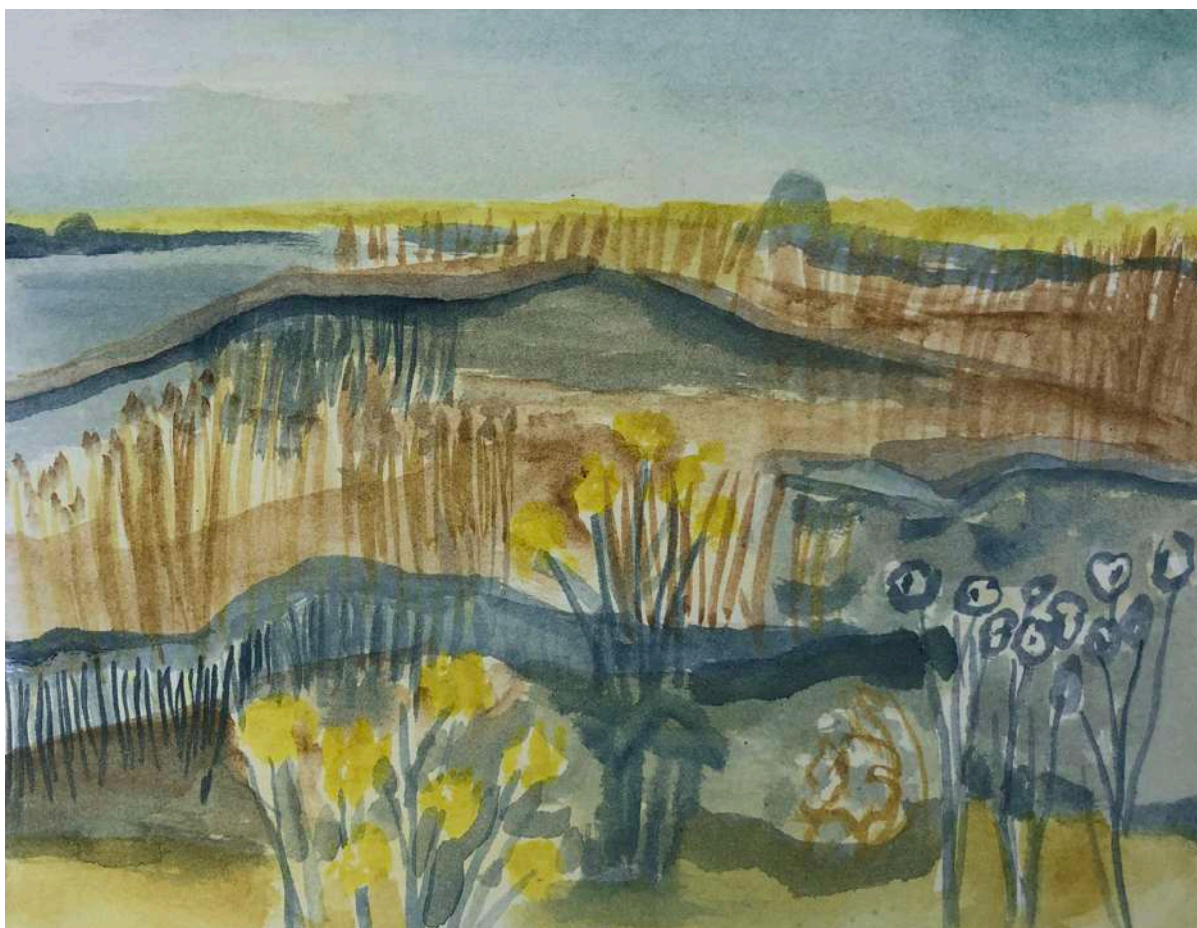
Carried Through, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H160mm W210mm [framed]
£285



Orb, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H240mm W285mm [framed]
£285



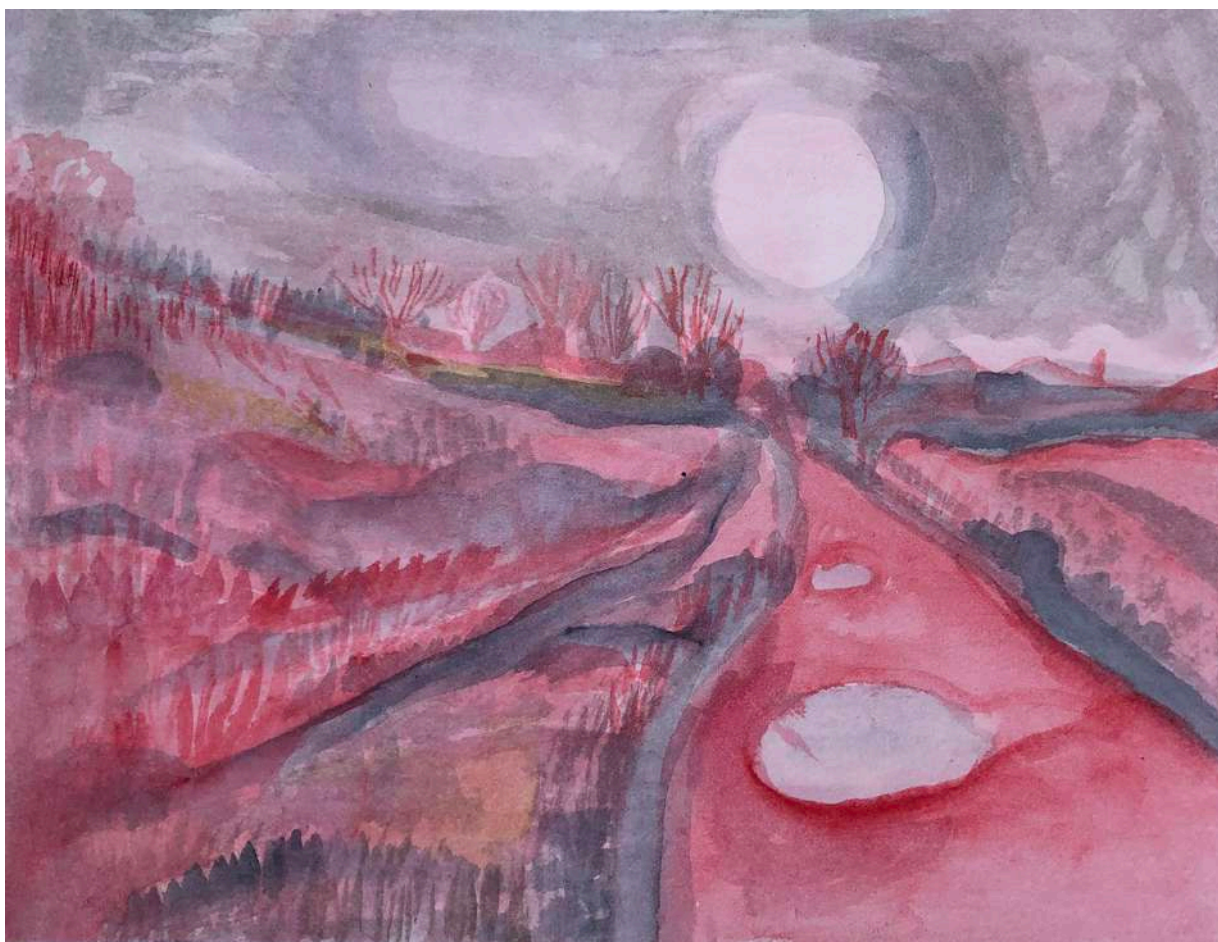
Seeing Light, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H240mm W290mm [framed]
£285



Seed, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H240mm W280mm [framed]
£285



Reflection, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H240mm W290mm [framed]
£285



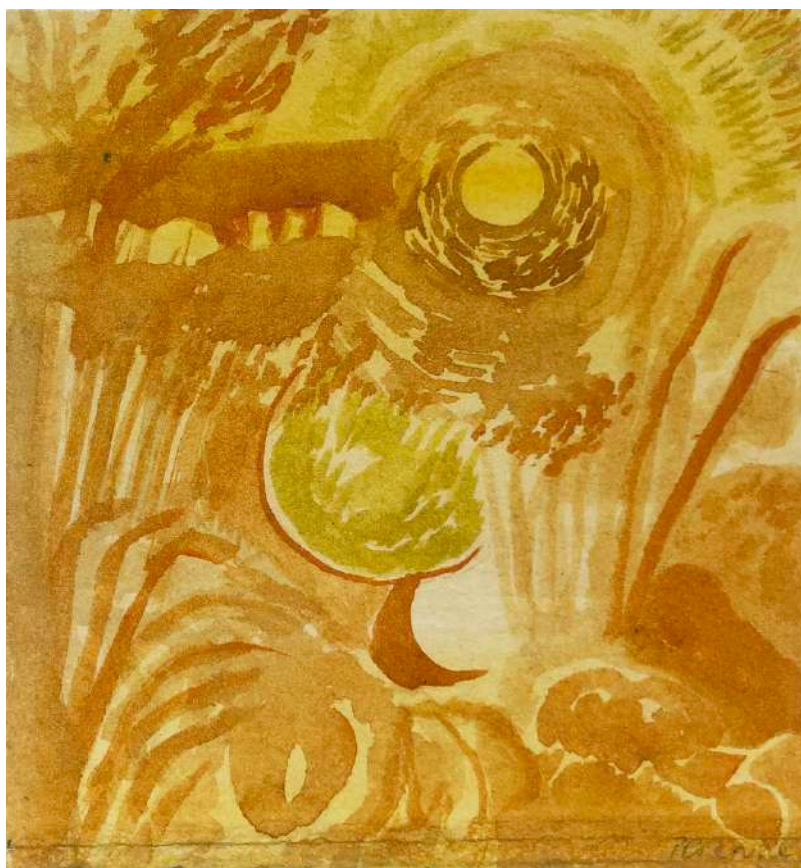
Structures of Silence, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H210mm W190mm [framed]
£165



Thistle, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H190mm W220mm [framed]
£165



Golden, 2022

Watercolour on paper

H180mm W190mm [framed]

£135



Plantain Medicine, 2022

Watercolour on paper
H180mm W180mm [framed]
£135



Horsetail Dream, 2022

Etching with chine colle : Edition of 3

H240mm W290mm [framed]

£155 each [framed]



Pine Dream, 2022

Etching with chine colle : Edition of 3
H240mm W290mm [framed]
£155 each [framed]



Wild Oats, 2022

Monoprint

H340mm W240mm [unframed]

£150 [unframed]

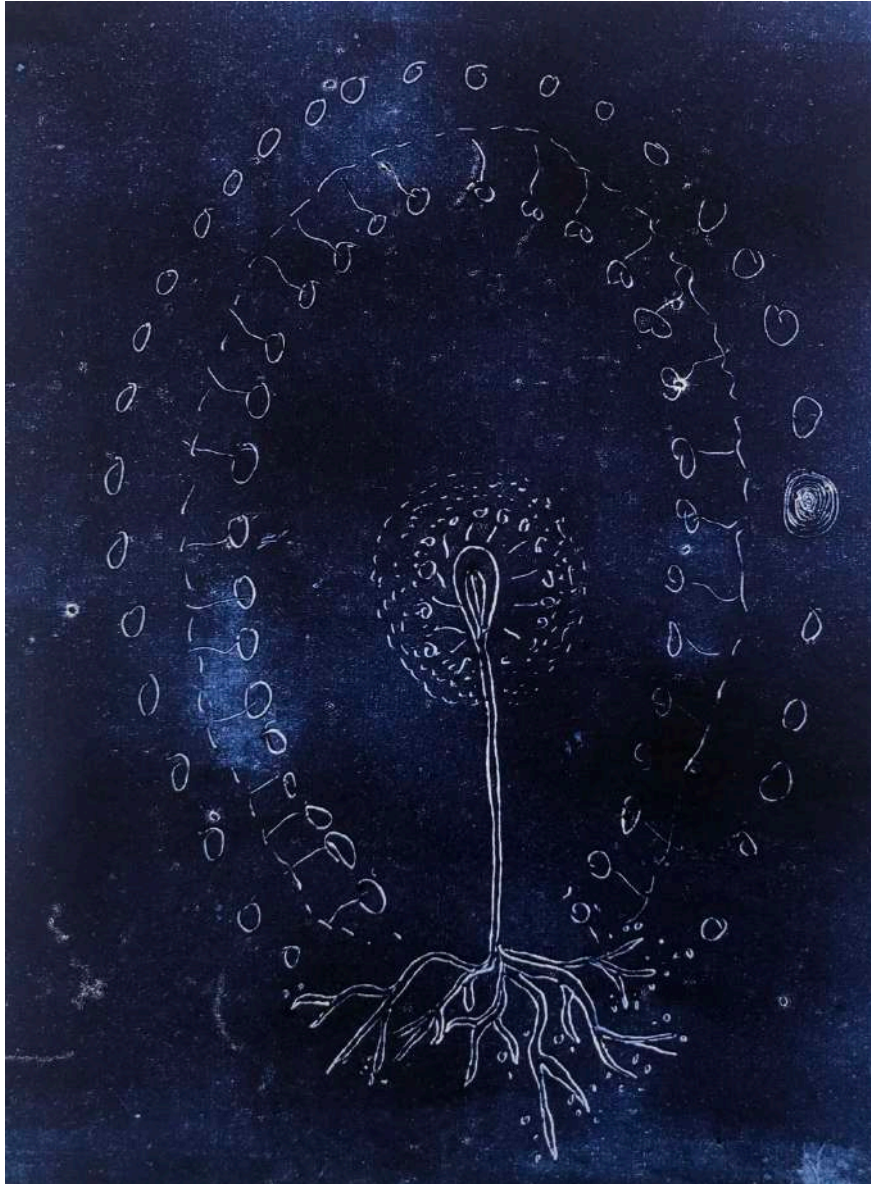


Mugwort Magic, 2022

Monoprint

H340mm W240mm [unframed]

£150 [unframed]



Dancing Seeds, 2022

Monoprint

H340mm W240mm [unframed]

£150 [unframed]



Pine, 2022

Monoprint

H340mm W240mm [unframed]

£150 [unframed]

POEMS BY SARAH SALWAY

The three poems reproduced below are part of a larger collection written by Sarah Salway in response to work created by Perienne Christian for her residency exhibition. For the complete collection of the poems, together with the works which inspired them, please see the accompanying publication *Alive in the Landscape ~ Dreaming a New Dream* published by Galloper-Sands and the Alde Valley Spring Festival Ltd.



FOR *DREAMING*

The plant collector

sleeps with one eye open
so as not to miss a moment
of the world's beauty
bark peeling like snakeskin,
fresh parchment petals,
uptwist of lily,
lion's tongue of iris,
but then to dream of birdsong
like the skylark from home,
daisies in the churchyard,
the river's silver glimmer,
before waking to a fresh morning
on the silk route, every day
a search for one more miracle.

© Sarah Salway. August 2022.



FOR ORB

Does a ton of feathers weigh the same as a ton of bricks?

Words drop like feathers,
I've never told anyone this before....
trails of conversation
like white clouds float behind us,
when *I've been thinking...*
weighs as much as *Is that an egret?*
We take secret phone calls
we can't bring back to the party,
medication... safe... so sorry...
but when you're listening so hard
and being heard back,
Do you remember...
it makes you vulnerable,
it makes you stronger than you've ever been,
I care for you so much...
because all of us tending the fire
have flown to the sun,
guide each other safely back to land.

© Sarah Salway. August 2022.



FOR *SEEING LIGHT*

Seeing light

at first light
before the sun's treasury
burns our path to gold
we lick our fingers
to feel how the teasing sky
will play games
with the rest of our day

the inky secrets
of our dreams leak
away with every sip
of tea, fiery love
and cryptic sorrows
tempered with a dash
of milk

open the window
we can do this

© Sarah Salway. August 2022.

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

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