

# PRESS & MEDIA RELEASE

THAMES-SIDE STUDIOS GALLERY



## STANDING GROUND

Rethinking the painted British landscape

Curated by Raksha Patel and Trevor Burgess

**Preview: Friday 6th September 6 - 9pm**

Thursday – Sunday until 22 September 2024

### Panel Discussion

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2 - 4pm**

Join artists for a Panel Discussion at Thames-Side Studios Gallery. The event is chaired by Dr Kate Nichols, Associate Professor in Art History at University of Birmingham.

Free – *All welcome.*

What does it mean to paint the landscape of Britain today?

The landscapes presented in *Standing Ground* dramatically expand the British landscape painting tradition, in terms of subject matter, use of paint, and medium. Neither ‘the British landscape’, nor ‘today’s political landscape’ are fixed entities, but common threads that emerge (and at times unravel) in the paintings brought together in *Standing Ground*.

Flooding, heatwaves, polluted rivers have all drawn further attention to the environmental desecration and climate catastrophe facing the planet (but disproportionately impacting the global south). Questions of landscape and belonging figure crucially in all of these developments. How might artists ‘Stand Ground’ in these contexts?

Landscape painting is a particularly freighted artistic genre, deeply connected to ideas of national identity. This is especially the case in Britain, where landscape painting is often regarded as the most significant historical national artistic achievement and the landscapes of Gainsborough, Constable and Turner are sometimes seen as synonymous with British art altogether. Landscape painting is thus fundamental to narratives of British cultural identity, with the latter also fluid like paint itself.

Text abridged from the catalogue essay to the exhibition by Dr Kate Nichols.

The catalogue funded by the [British Art Network](#), will be launched at the exhibition opening. To order a copy of the catalogue (£12 + p&p) or for further information, please contact the curators [r.r.patel@arts.ac.uk](mailto:r.r.patel@arts.ac.uk) and [trevor@trevorburgess.co.uk](mailto:trevor@trevorburgess.co.uk)



## THE EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Madi Acharya-Baskerville, Said Adrus, Bhajan Hunjan, Frank Bowling, Trevor Burgess, Jai Chuhan, Jasmir Creed, Kimathi Donkor, Grant Foster, Bruno Grad, Azraa Motala and Raksha Patel.

## THE CURATORS

**Trevor Burgess** (b.1963) is an artist and curator based in London and Spain, exhibiting internationally including solo exhibitions in UK, Spain and Switzerland. His work has won prizes and awards in Germany, USA and UK. For over 20 years he has been making paintings derived from his observation of the contemporary multicultural urban landscape.

[www.trevorburgess.co.uk](http://www.trevorburgess.co.uk)

**Raksha Patel** (b.1972, Leicester, UK) studied MFA Painting at The Slade School of Art (1998). Recent exhibitions: A Radical Decade, Rochdale Art Gallery in the 1980s, Touchstones Rochdale (2023), Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize (2023), Goddesses of Kings Cross, CSM Museum & Study Collection Gallery (2022). She is a Senior Lecturer on BA Painting, Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London. [www.rakshapatel.co.uk](http://www.rakshapatel.co.uk)

## THE WRITER

**Dr. Kate Nichols** is an art historian of Britain and the British Empire. She is an Associate Professor in Art History at the University of Birmingham, Department of Art History, Curating and Visual Studies at the University of Birmingham. She co-convened the British Art Network 'Race, Empire and the Pre-Raphaelites: decolonising Victorian Art and Design' (2020-2023).

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***Standing Ground* brings an inter-generational dialogue between painters today.**

**Madi Acharya-Baskerville** is a London based South Asian artist. She has an MA in Fine Art at University of Wales Institute. She won the First Plinth Public Art Award, Royal Society of Sculptors (2023), Her commission 'The Double Act', Royal Society of Sculptors is currently on show at The Art House, Wakefield. <https://www.madiacharya-baskerville.org>

London based artist **Said Adrus** has been active since the 80's. He works in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy, Turkey, and Uganda. His practice expresses a range of media, addressing issues of displacement, estrangement and racism - tensions with which he has been personally confronted since a child. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Said\\_Adrus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Said_Adrus)

**Sir Frank Bowling OBE RA** is an artist based in London, who has spent over six decades expanding the possibilities of paint. Known as one of the foremost British artists of his generation, major solo shows include *Frank Bowling's Americas* at Museum of Fine Arts Boston (2022-23), a retrospective at Tate Britain (2019) and the touring exhibition *Mappa Mundi* (2017-19). <https://frankbowling.com>

**Jai Chuhan** has exhibited internationally including Tate Liverpool, Barbican, London. Solo exhibitions: Champ Lacombe, Biarritz, France (2024); Qrystal Partners, London (2023); Paris Internationale with Champ Lacombe, Paris (2023) Hayward Gallery Touring Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood (2024-25). <https://www.jaichuhan.co.uk>

**Jasmir Creed** is a practice-led PhD researcher at the Slade School of Fine Art. Solo exhibitions include: *Utopolis* at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, Warrington, 2023; *Dystopolis* at Victoria Gallery & Museum, Liverpool, 2018; and *Urban Forest* at Delta House Studios, London, 2017 <https://jcreed1.wixsite.com/website%20%20>

**Kimathi Donkor** is the Reader in Contemporary Painting and Black Art at University of the Arts London. Exhibitions: *The 15<sup>th</sup> Sharjah Biennial*, 2023; *The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure* at the National Portrait Gallery, London (2024); *Soulscapes*, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (2024); *Kimathi Donkor: Black History Painting* at Niru Ratnam Gallery, London (2024). <https://www.kimathidonkor.net>

**Grant Foster** is a London based artist who completed an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art in 2012. He was a Prize-winner in John Moores 25, 2008, and in 2019 held the Randall Chair at Alfred University New York and was Fellow in Contemporary Art with The British School at Rome. <https://grantfoster.org>

**Bruno Grad** is an artist and writer based in Margate. He studied English Literature at King's College, University of Cambridge (2009). Most recent exhibition: *People of the Body*, 4 Garden Walk Gallery (2024) <https://www.instagram.com/diasporistshopfronts>

**Bhajan Hunjan** trained as painter and printmaker. Alongside her studio practice she works as an Artist Educator and on site-specific Public Art commissions, created mostly through community consultation and participation that engage people. [www.bhajanhunjan.com](http://www.bhajanhunjan.com)

**Azraa Motala** studied BA Fine Art at University of Central Lancashire and MA Fine Art at Chelsea College of Arts (2018) She was awarded the Hoyland scholarship, and has exhibited at Tate Britain, Manchester Museum, Saatchi Gallery, British Textile Biennial, Touchstones Rochdale, Artichoke Trust. <https://www.azraamotala.com>

<https://www.thames-sidestudios.co.uk/news/exhibitions/2024/standing-ground>

**Thames-Side Studios Gallery**  
Harrington Way, Warspite Road, London SE18 5NR  
Open: Thursday - Sunday 12 - 5pm

For further info and images please email [info@thamessidestudios.co.uk](mailto:info@thamessidestudios.co.uk)

