

Jane Harris  
*OUT THERE*

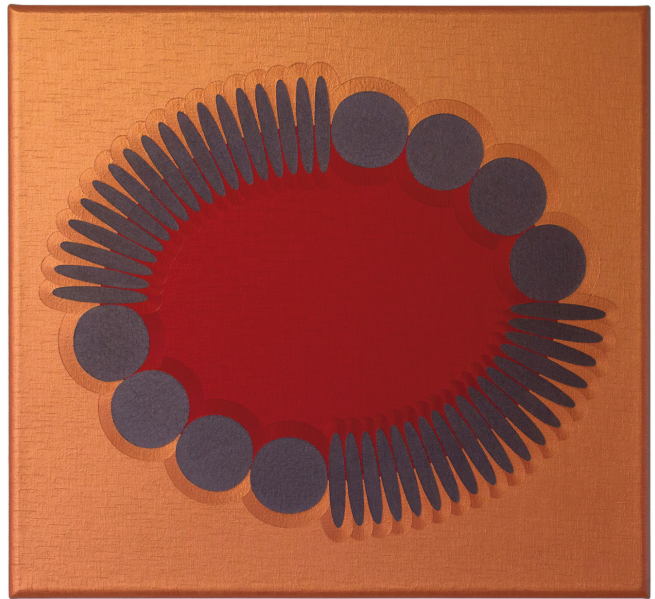
15 March – 14 April 2018

Jane Harris's first solo exhibition in London for 10 years, presents a group of oil paintings on wood and canvas that reveal developments in a distinctive and subtle language of painting that has been described as a kind of 'rococo minimalism'. (Barry Schwabsky)

Harris's paintings originate in the geometric form of the ellipse – an elastic shape that lends itself to allusion and can take on multiple identities. Drawn from templates, the forms are painted in various relationships to each other, in two or three colours. From these simple parameters she is able to create images of astonishing beauty that remind how the basic effects of all painting lie in the movement of light passing across a surface which carries the substance of 'formed and transformed' matter.

Harris's practice is self reflexive, but she is no dry formalist. Her paintings express and originate from an intense involvement with the natural world and phenomena that exist within it: the sun backlighting a cloud, or the movement of wind on water; for example. Her elliptical forms have a slippery kind of ambiguity and through her handling of paint she proposes various possibilities for how we perceive them. They can be apprehended as shapes which appear flat on the surface of a support while simultaneously carrying a sense of recession depth.

"Are they large or small, are they objects, tunnels, pools, islands or geometric patterns, motifs, signals, emblems, are they two dimensional or three



Jane Harris: Holding Back 2017 oil on linen, 58 x 64 cm

dimensional? And where are they exactly, in what sort of space?" (J.H.)

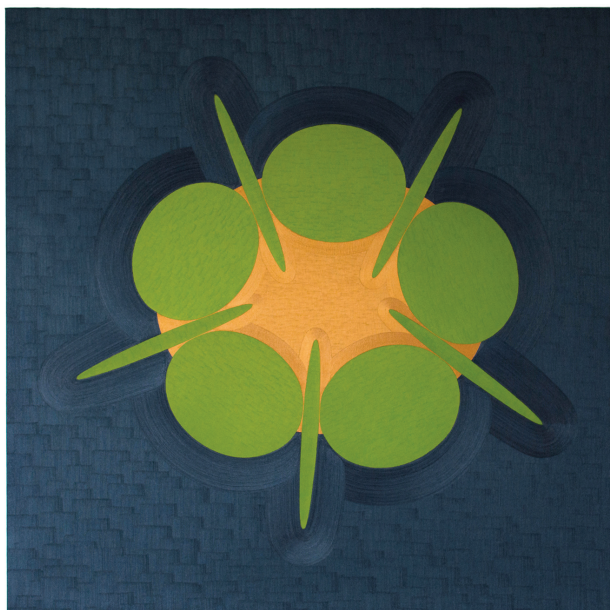
The edges of the shapes are surrounded, both within and without, by an 'aura' of brush marks – painted wet into wet – that give the work fluid optical effects that change as the viewer moves around the paintings.

Recent paintings have become more complex in their interplays of form and are all worked in three colours. A more various palette introduces deep greens, blues and purples within a familiar range of silver, gold and umber. Harris's colours are taken from the real world and then 'tuned' through the process of painting – sometimes resulting in dramatic contrasts, or the subtlest exchanges of tonal difference.

Jane Harris has shown internationally since the mid 1990s, with recent solo exhibitions at FRAC Artothèque du Limousin, Panazol, France; Two Rooms Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand and Galerie Hollenbach, Stuttgart, Germany. Her work is held in many major collections including Arts Council England; Fidelity Worldwide Investment; Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and the Government Art Collection. In 1995 she was awarded an Arts Foundation Painting Fellowship and she has twice been Artist in Residence at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, in 2011 and 2015. She has been a prize winner at the John Moores Liverpool (1995) and the Jerwood Drawing Open (1996) and in 2012 she won The Sunny Dupree Family Award for a woman painter at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

A PDF catalogue is available for the exhibition with a text by Charles Darwent.

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Jane Harris: Wild Thing 2018 oil on wood, 80 x 80 cm