

JOHN VIRTUE

EARLY WORKS 1989-1991

Hazlitt Holland-Hibbert is pleased to be showing eleven paintings by the British artist John Virtue (b. 1947) on view in the gallery from Monday 9 April 2018.

This early series of landscapes, dating from 1989 to 1991, invites us to reconsider what is perhaps the most quintessential and British of all artistic genres. Depicting the artist's Devonshire homeland near South Tawton and the rocky terrain around Avignon, they portray one man's enduring affection for his natural environment.

The series further reveals Virtue's highly personal vision of the landscape, captured here in his signature monochrome palette. Although he holds deep respect for the heritage of Rembrandt, Palmer, Constable and Turner, there exists in his landscapes more potent associations with the work of David Bomberg. Indeed, it was at the Slade under Frank Auerbach, former pupil of Bomberg himself, that Virtue first encountered his charcoal drawings that came to influence his own gestural brushwork.