

A Golden Season for Artist Clifford William Blakey



College Valley

Throughout November Off The Wall Gallery in Corbridge will play host to a major new series of paintings by Whitley Bay artist Clifford William Blakey FIGA, BWS.

The inspiration for my work comes from the ever changing relationship between air, water and earth. I have an ongoing project, which is to document my reactions to the landscape of Northumberland throughout the seasons and the changing of the years, returning to subjects again and again in an effort to capture a true sense of the place.

The idea for 'The Alchemy of Air', the title of the exhibition, came about whilst walking in the area around Simonside, very late in the afternoon in early September, the sky above me was a turquoise blue but to the horizon there was a burning, yellow sun casting the most magnificent glow across the earth, everything had turned to gold.

'So was born the idea for this show, I thought of Alchemy because of the medieval practice of mixing chemical elements in an attempt to make gold. It seemed to me that nature was doing this very thing on its own in a quite magical way and it has made me look at the landscape in a new way. I have painted as quickly as I dare, some of the paintings have up to two hundred thin layers in places and because of my technique of

painting wet into wet a lot of the time the paper gets drenched and I have to stop to let it dry enough to continue. It is the nature of the best of Autumn to be short lived so the paintings have had to be immediate, spontaneous and they have been thrilling to do." Over 40 paintings of Clifford's favourite places in the North East will be on show.

Clifford is a Fellow of the International Guild of Artists and a Member of the British Watercolour Society. He trained at Newcastle University completing his degree in 1980 and his Master of Fine Art course in 1986 studying under Professor Norman Adams RA. He has had many solo exhibitions and has shown at The Royal Academy Summer Show, Singer and Friedlander Sunday Times Watercolour Competition and the Royal Institute of Watercolour Painters exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London. He has paintings in private collections all over the world.

'The Alchemy of Air' can be seen from 1st November - 30th November 2008 at Off The Wall Gallery, Corbridge. For information tel: 01434 634 939 or e-mail: off.thewall@virgin.net



The Swell, Cullercoats



Evening Light