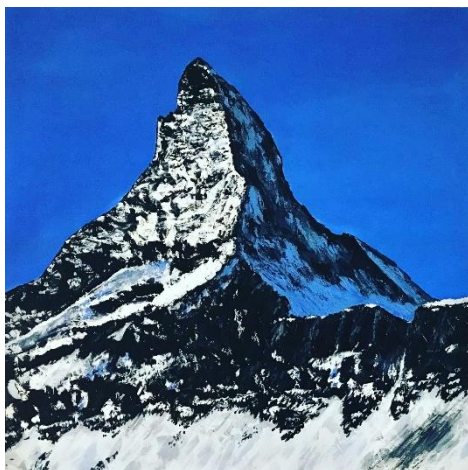


Spring Charity Art Exhibition



Big Mountains

Paintings by Chris Boulton

In aid of Pelican Cancer Foundation and My Cancer My Choices

10am - 4pm on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May 2022

Westridge Studio

Star Lane

Highclere

Hampshire

RG20 9QS



Introduction

Welcome to my Spring exhibition. I am delighted and proud to say that as I am now an accredited artist this is part of Open Studios West Berkshire and North Hampshire. Follow this link to see other studios in the area that are open during the month of May together with details on the Insight Exhibition at The Base, Greenham Business Park: <https://www.open-studios.org.uk/>

For this exhibition I have had a primary focus on producing several very large images painted in acrylics on canvas, all of mountains or views from the mountains – I have really enjoyed doing these and I have to say are best seen in person. The images here simply don't do them justice!

All of the paintings are on canvas and available as originals only.

I am supporting two charities again - Pelican Cancer Foundation and My Cancer My Choices and you can access more information on both via their websites, as follows:

<https://www.pelicancancer.org/>

<https://mycancermychoices.org/>

I hope you enjoy my paintings and will be interested in buying in aid of my chosen charities but of course I am more than happy for you to just take a look. Those that are already sold are noted in this catalogue and will be clearly marked during the exhibition. For all the paintings there is a "reserve" price I have in mind but I hope buyers will be generous. I really won't be offended by any offer, so if you are interested drop me an email: cgboulton@aol.com or talk to me at the exhibition.

I will also be painting another large mountain image over the weekend of the exhibition so please come along and see the creation of a new picture in real-time.....

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Cj" or "Cjx", written in a cursive style.

I look forward to meeting you on 21st or 22nd May.

Chris Boulton

The Spring Collection – Big Mountains

Big Mountains

Many of you will know I have been a regular visitor to the Alps over the last 30 years, both for climbing and skiing. I was lucky to be able to revisit Zermatt in Switzerland in January and this rekindled my love of the mountains. It motivated me to capture some of my favourite mountain views, not only of the Alps but of the UK too, all painted in acrylics in a large canvas format.

There is, as always, a story to each one....

The Dru and Mont Blanc – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 150cm x 100cm



I climbed Mont Blanc in what now feels like a “lifetime ago” in 1994. I always imagined it would be the first of many 4,000 metre peaks for me although it turned out to be only a few. I like looking at them though and the Dru and its very distinctive outline has always held a special fascination for me. This one is a view of The Dru, the Aiguille du Midi and Mont Blanc from the Grand Montets ski slopes above Argentière, one of my favourite ski areas and the one I have visited most over the years.

The Matterhorn, Zermatt - Acrylic on canvas. Image size 100cm x100cm



This is really the one that got away! I went to climb this mountain during the 90s' in two consecutive summers. Both times it was plastered in snow, even in the summer months. I still hope it could be within reach but to be sure I need to be in peak fitness and the ascent now requires by law a 1:1 support of a guide, let alone in favourable "condition". I hadn't seen it again in the "flesh" for 25 years until I happened to be back in Zermatt earlier this year (courtesy of the Covid restrictions in France). I spent the whole week looking at it and thinking what if....and yes the sky really was that blue!

A Triptych of the Monte Rosa Massif and the Matterhorn – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 60cm x 60cm each

SOLD



This panoramic triptych of the Monte Rosa means a lot to me. I have climbed Monte Rosa and the Breithorn, both pictured, as well as traversing Castor and Pollux, also featured, as part of a ski tour – the Italian High Level route. Monte Rosa was a tough one to climb and for some reason, for the only time I can remember, I suffered from the effects of altitude. The Breithorn is at the other end of the scale. Probably the most accessible and easiest 4,000m peak in the Alps. I have actually ascended it twice, in crampons and on skis. I studied this view in January this year during a break in skiing, took lots of photos and it is the one that stimulated me to paint mountains for this exhibition. On the Italian High Level Route, due to bad weather, we had to abandon our trip and tried to return to Zermatt via the Grenzgletscher (pictured to the right of the left hand image). But, as it is heavily crevassed and due to thin mist/low cloud, this proved too dangerous. So, we ended up in Italy in a ski resort called Alagna

Glacier d'Argentière – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 60cm x 80cm



I have sat and gazed at the Argentière Glacier from Pointe de Vue, above the village of Argentière many times. I enjoyed capturing it on canvas. Sadly, in all the years I have been visiting the Chamonix Valley there has been a marked reduction in the size of the glacier.

Arête de Aiguille du Midi – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 92cm x 62cm



I have been in the queue on the Arête from the Aiguille du Midi a few times. It is an exciting and interesting start to the World's longest off-piste ski run – 18kms and if you're lucky a ski down all the way to Chamonix. As I painted this, I was already looking forward to the next time. The arete is "protected" with ropes and stakes in the ski season but they are removed in the summer, making a descent a very different proposition. There are however no crowds in the summer!

The Matterhorn from Lake Stellisee – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 100cm x 100cm



On the way to climb Monte Rosa, a long time ago now, we paused for a rest at Lake Stellisee. I was always struck by the reflection of the Matterhorn and was so pleased to get around to capturing it on canvas.

Helvellyn and Striding Edge – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 80cm x 60cm

NOTE: This will be on display at the Open Studios Insight Exhibition at The Base from 7th - 29th May



While I have only been up mountains like Scafell Pike or even the Langdales a few times, like many mountaineers and hill walkers I have climbed Helvellyn many times, often taking in Striding Edge on the way, in varying conditions. It is a truly majestic mountain which never disappoints in any season.

The Langdale Pikes – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 80cm x 60cm



So, how many times have I been up the Langdale Pikes? Not many is the answer! I always seem to bypass them heading for elsewhere but always enjoy the iconic view, especially this one, in winter.

Aiguilles de Chamonix – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 100cm x 50cm



I have often observed the Aiguilles de Chamonix from the valley floor or from the other side of the valley while walking, climbing and/or skiing so just had to capture them from the many photographs I have taken over the years. Truly majestic!

Ben Nevis North Face and Carn Mor Dearg Arête – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 92cm x 62cm



Probably my favourite ridge on the mainland UK is the Carn Mor Dearg Arete. It is, in my view, the most exciting way to access the summit of Ben Nevis, especially in winter. In the right conditions you could be forgiven for believing you are in the Alps. Only once has that happened to me – I'll never forget it, especially due to the fact I had to go six times before this happened!

A triptych of Crib Goch, Crib y Ddysgl and Snowdon – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 46cm x 56cm each



On of my favourite days out in the mountains of Snowdonia. First, you experience the excitement of Crib Goch then a day of great views, if you are lucky. The route becomes a proper test of winter mountaineering skills in the snow and ice.

The Cuillin Ridge, Isle of Skye – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 100cm x 30cm

SOLD



Another one of my “unfinished business” mountaineering trips – to complete a traverse of the Cuillin Ridge. It might stay that way unless I’m very lucky. My last attempt started well, in good weather and with a great forecast. Then after a very uncomfortable bivi on the ridge and a storm, it became an epic retreat. So spent the rest of the trip drinking whisky!

The Three Sisters, Glencoe – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 92cm x 61cm



One summer, many years ago I packed my bag and based on a good forecast, set out on a rare and I think my only solo trip to Glencoe. It was probably one of the best mountaineering trips I have ever had. I met no one and had the mountains to myself. Fantastic!

Pavey Ark, Harrison Stickle and Stickle Tarn – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 100cm x 50cm



I have been to Stickle Tarn more times than I care to remember and of course, there is the chance to rise to the challenge of the excellent scramble, Jake's Rake on Pavey Ark – the mountain on the right of the picture. Wonderful!

The Langdale Valley – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 100cm x 30cm



I love the Langdale Valley and all it has to offer. The starting point for many walks up the mountains either side or further afield, plus many climbing and scrambling opportunities. A great place to camp too – this is an iconic view showing the Pikes and Bowfell, amongst other peaks.

Vignettes Hut, Switzerland – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 91cm x 61cm



This is an amazing location for a mountain hut – perched on a ridge and hard to see from any distance, in the winter anyway. It is not easy to access either unless you know what you are doing (and have a good guide). It's the overnight stop before the last day of the famous Haute Route. I was last there in 1994.....

The Breithorn, Zermatt, Switzerland – Acrylic on canvas. Image size 60cm x 60cm



This is probably the most accessible and easiest 4,000m Alpine peak to climb but nonetheless a majestic mountain and one I have climbed in crampons and skis. The Breithorn is also one of the 4,000m peaks you can get very close to without climbing.

Thank you for looking at (and hopefully buying) my paintings. All for two good causes. If you have this catalogue before the exhibition and would like to buy but can't come along, please contact me via cgboulton@aol.com or call me on 07881 773781.

During my exhibition there will be some paintings and prints of other subjects available in watercolours and in acrylics – you will have to come along to find out!

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