



Rob Pointon | The Cairngorms
November 2010



BAREWALL,
2-4 Market Place, Burslem,
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After a tough third year of self-employment as a painter and animator working largely to commission I was desperate for dedicated painting time and more time to think on purely artistic values.

I managed to swap a painting for 3 weeks accommodation in a spectacular setting up in the wilderness of the Cairngorm mountains. Here are the results...



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Sun Breaking Through Cloud Above the Track to the Lodge

Oil on Canvas

Unframed

Signed

36" x 24"

2010

*£NFS **SOLD***

I visited Rothiemurchas Lodge on a fun weekend visiting a friend at RAF Lossiemouth who is a keen mountaineer and has since joined the RAF Mountain Rescue. I managed to get this painting done on the weekend which the Lodge Manager saw straight off the easel and wanted to buy - I said I would rather have a bit more accommodation up here...

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The Lodge from Castle Hill

Oil on Canvas

Unframed

Signed

70cm x 70cm

2010

£850

This is the first painting I produced on the dedicated trip, I woke up early enough to be disturbing a group of deer about 500 metres from the lodge which was magical. I was determined to get the painting kit up into the hills, which was proving more of a struggle than expected. Once set up and I stopped moving it wasn't long before I was feeling the cold but I endured as much as I could over 2 days to get this painting finished. The path highlighted with trapped snow is a strong device to lead us into the painting.

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The Path to the Lairig Ghru

Oil on Board

Framed

Signed

30" x 24"

2010

£850

The Lairig Ghru is the best-known hill-pass in Scotland. It climbs to an altitude of 835 metres and crosses through the central Cairngorms, one of the wildest areas in the country. I was well placed to walk into the Lairig Ghru from the lodge, and this painting shows the last tree on the route in from Rothiemurcas forest. I thought the tree was a good character in its self. Over this ridge the wind picked up making painting difficult. The lodge manager had said an eagle was nesting in the Lairig Ghru and had been spotted recently. I was hoping I might catch a glimpse whilst stood in one place observing all day, but no luck this time.

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The Bridge at the foot of Loch Morlich

Oil on Board

Framed

Signed

48" x 32"

2010

£1700

This bridge marks the start of the 2-mile track up to the Lodge where I was staying. You needed a code to get through the barrier so this formed the entrance to another world. I was trying to represent the flow of fresh water underneath the bridge and down the river. The low sun, when it made an appearance, gave a sparkle to the frosted scene. The Cairngorm Mountain ski resort is visible on the snow-capped mountains beyond the Loch.

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Rothiemurchas Forest

Oil on Board

Framed

Signed

32" x 48"

2010

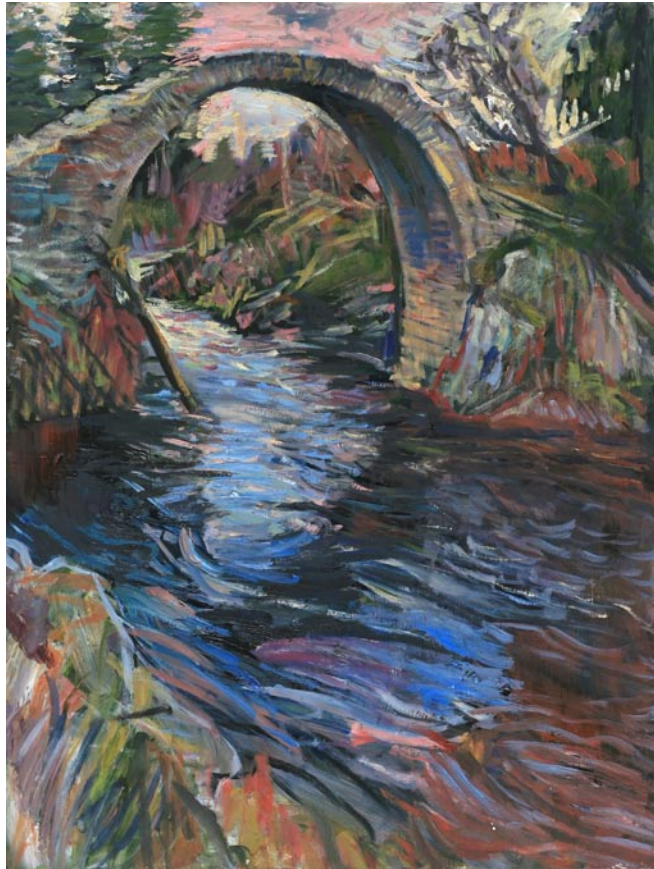
£1700

There was something unnerving about standing for long periods in this forest well away from any path. The pines would creak in the wind and the lack of landmark in this pattern of trees would be frequently disorientating. It is rare you see such a patterned natural landscape and one that really works when you can relate the height. The forest painting of Gustav Klimt is a strong influence here. This is one of the few landscape paintings I did on this trip - despite staying in a relative wilderness - that didn't depict any influence of mankind, such as a path, bridge or the lodge. I often use artificial features as visual devices to explain the scale, space and our physical relationship to the landscape.

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Carrbridge
Oil on Board
Framed
Signed
24" x 18"
2010
£750

Producing this piece was an endurance test in painting in cold unpleasant conditions. The black river water was flowing at a mighty pace alongside me. I was stood on a concrete weathered platform drenched in the spray from the river trying to out last the frequent spells of bitterly cold rain. The painting is as a result quite raw, full of movement, and not over-worked.

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The last sun of the day on

Castle Hill

Oil on Board

Framed

Signed

36" x 24"

2010

£900

On days when the sun showed up the last hour gave a golden orange glow to the late autumnal landscape. There are blues coming from the snow-covered Lairig Ghru on the right and a crescent moon on the left near the tree. The frozen puddles show up well in the winding track on the way up to the Lodge. A mother and infant reindeer walked past, over the road, and back into the forest as I did this piece.

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Fire at the Lodge

Oil on Board

Framed

Signed

30" x 24"

2010

£900

The days are short up here in November, which meant I was left with a lot of time to read, sketch through ideas, or fire gaze. A fire represents an ever changing, impossible to accurately depict scene, which is exactly the kind of subject I like as it forces you somewhere other than straightforward observational painting. I have tried to use very obvious brushstrokes to reflect the emanating heat and light and show the very fluid flow of the flames.

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Cairngorm Mountain: First Weekend of the Season

Oil on Board
Unframed
Signed
48" x 32"
2010
£1200

Cairngorm Mountain had a great years snowfall in 2009/10 and the same was predicted in 2010/11. The ski resort was able to open in mid-November whilst I was up there. I found a sheltered spot in a covered porch for the café and captured the skiers and snowboarders at the end of their run making their way to the funicular railway. Visibility would come and go quickly. I enjoyed trying to relate the flow of the snow falling in the brushwork.

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