



RALPH FREEMAN  
c o n n e c t i o n s

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Cover:  
Five Arches V  
51 x 71 cm mixed media & oil on canvas 2011

  
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## Statement

There always comes a point in time where I need to switch to a different medium. A change of process opens up other possibilities with the promise of unlocking hidden doors. The brain is subdued, overtaken by the play and the exploration of the element of craft. This creates its own connections between stimuli, time and response, beyond thought, and dictates what should be acted on or reacted against.

The images which form the basis of the mixed media work (some recently re-discovered) were recorded over a longer period of time, either with drawing, photography or watercolour. To have been there, physically, to capture the image and to take away a particular sense of place was essential. What is afterwards imagined then develops embellishes or simplifies this record, by calling up a memory of what was sensed. I try to envisage a depiction outside its original parameters by stretching and pushing it away and out of the restrictions of its original frame. These then are the essential building blocks of the current mixed media work. Re-inventing the catalyst which initially drew me in to the subject.

The key is light or its absence. This is how form or structure evolves. It illuminates that which seems essential. Other elements can fade, dissolve or become immaterial. Light suggests what needs to be lost or implied and what needs to be found or said. Through perceived memory of a place or an atmosphere, key elements are selected, exaggerated or become focal points. However it can be that what is believed to be remembered is actually imagined. Again it is merely the connections that are tangible.

References to landscape, still life, the natural and the architectural, are unavoidable, and remain within the core of the oil paintings, at times filtering out through the work. Writing about the sources of these works is more difficult because the content is not so much in the subject matter but contained in the painting activity. What is remembered or worked through here is not an image or a time and a place, but a process suggesting or presenting different ways to use form, colour, tone and space, creating the conditions for the fusion between mood and form, whilst allowing space for something still to be revealed. Again the process relates to the connections that arise between these various elements extracting which has more importance and how they should relate.

When asked, which artists have inspired me most, I could surely supply a good list. But this would only be a part of the story, the tip of an iceberg of influences, with the rest remaining submerged. Perhaps, then, another pertinent way to see these connections is to quote Ad Reinhardt: 'An artist is related to the artists that have gone before him and the artists that come after him.'

*Ralph Freeman, April 2012*



Five Arches IV  
51 x 69 cm mixed media & oil on canvas 2011



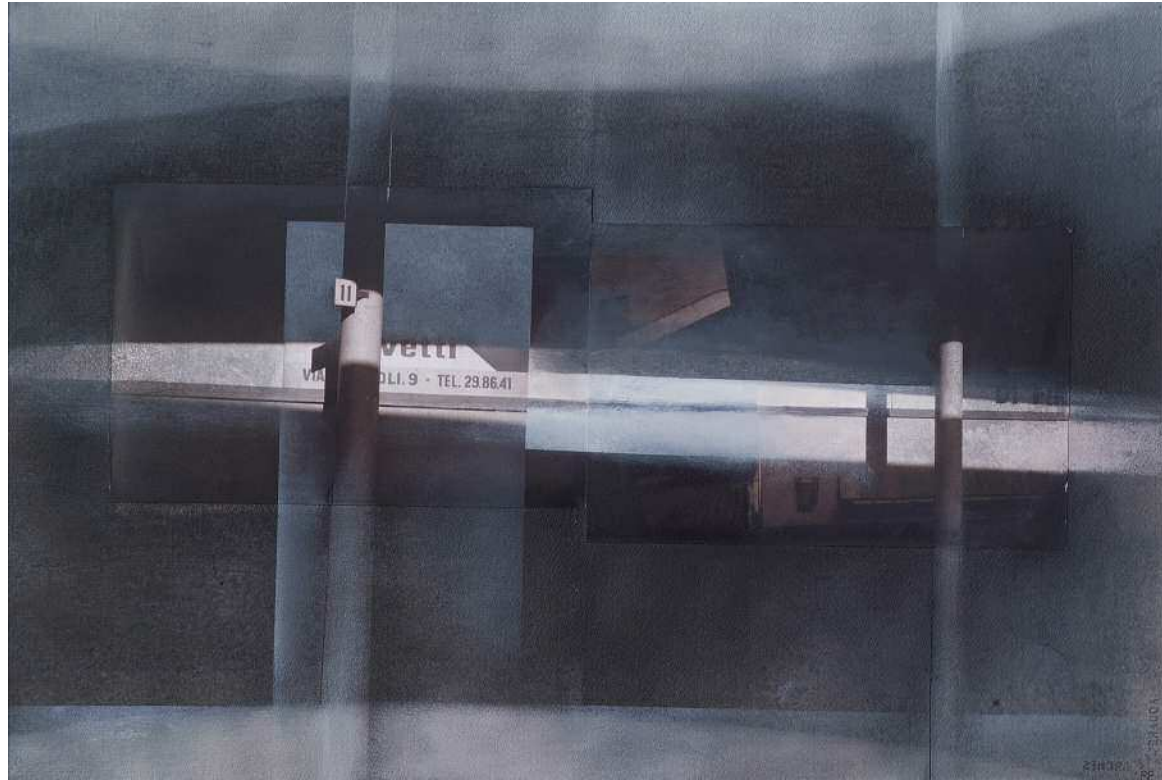
Playback  
60 x 60 cm oil on linen 2012



Five Arches V  
51 x 71 cm mixed media & oil on canvas 2011

Verses  
91 x 102 cm oil on linen 2011

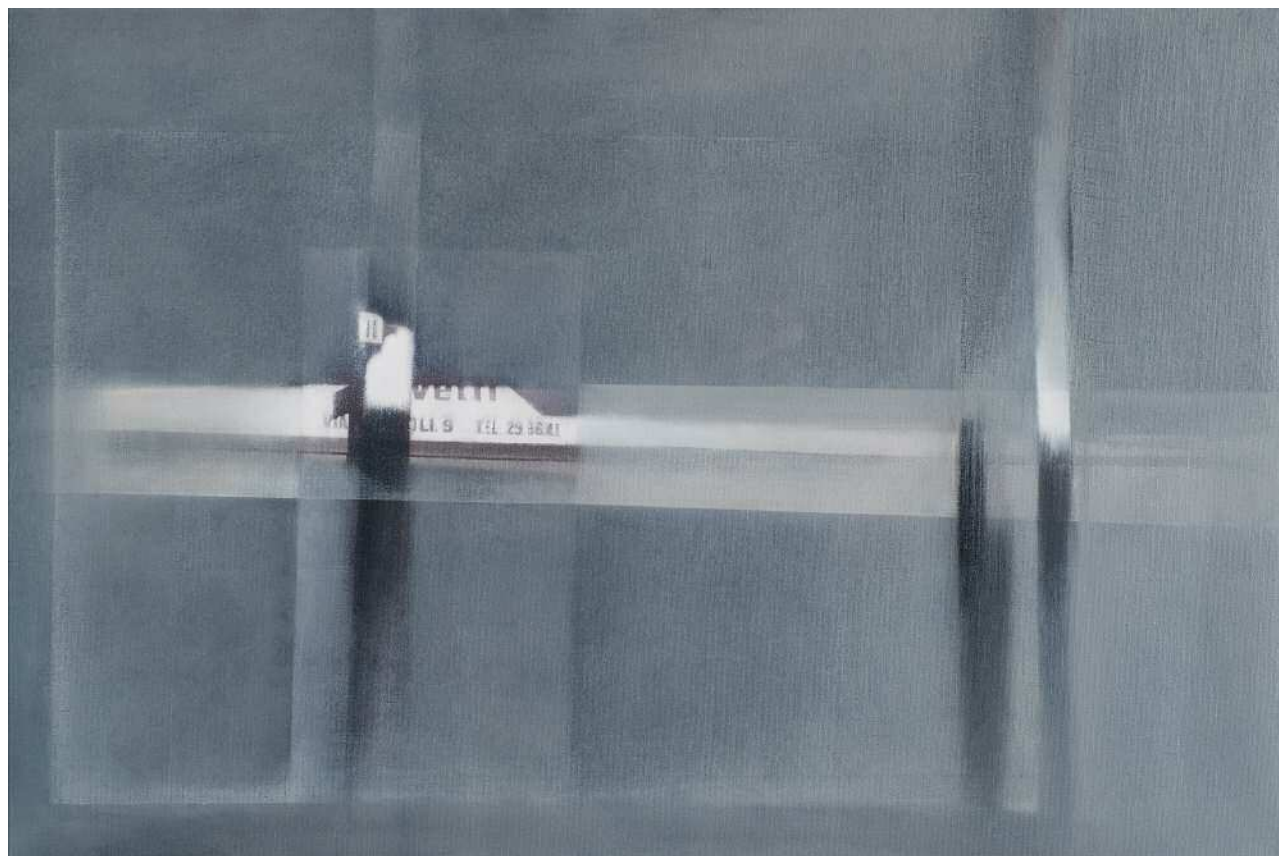




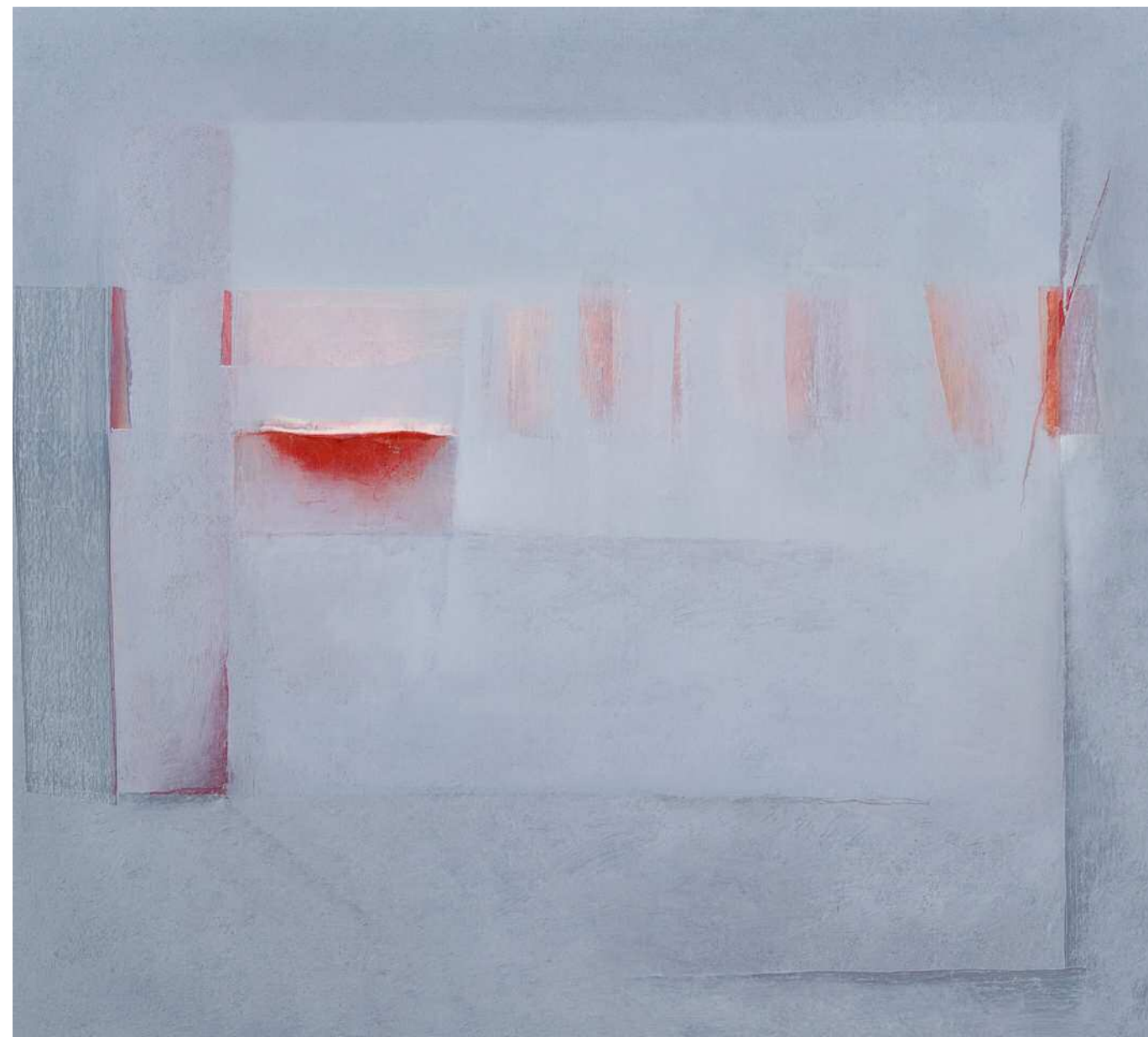
Underpass  
38 x 57 cm mixed media 2012



Don't Look Back  
59 x 59 cm oil on linen 2011



Underpass II  
51 x 76 cm mixed media & oil on canvas 2012



Crossfade  
91 x 102 cm oil on linen 2011



Grove II  
51 x 70 cm mixed media & oil on canvas 2011



Southbound  
76 x 76 cm oil on linen 2011





Other Paths II  
51 x 75 cm mixed media & oil on canvas 2011



Passage  
91 x 102 cm oil on linen 2011



Incoming II  
38 x 56 cm mixed media 2011



Incoming  
38 x 56 cm mixed media 2011



Other Paths  
38 x 57 cm mixed media 2011



Grove  
28 x 38 cm mixed media 2011



909  
28 x 38 cm mixed media 2011

Ringrise  
80 x 35 cm mixed media on board 2012





Waterway  
40 x 71 cm mixed media on board 2012



Ring Twice  
38 x 56 cm mixed media on board 2012



Mist II  
38 x 28 cm mixed media 2011



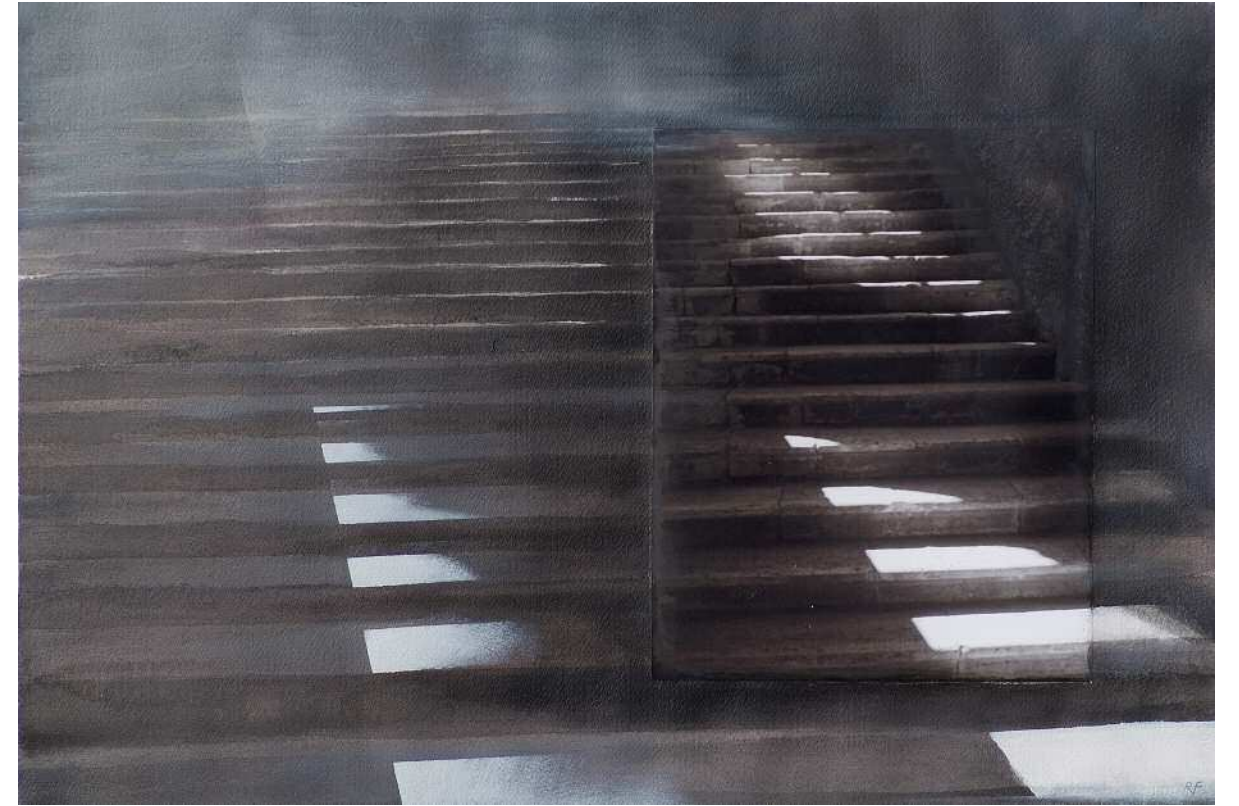
Float  
37 x 57 cm construction & oil on board 2011

Shape of Time  
153 x 168 cm oil on linen 2012





Reunited  
71 x 92 cm oil on linen 2012



Twenty-one Steps II  
38 x 57 cm mixed media 2011



Silver Lining  
45 x 51 cm oil on board construction 2011





Sideways  
40 x 45 cm oil on board construction 2011



Open  
76 x 76 cm oil on linen 2012



Small World  
39 x 54 cm oil on linen 2011



Twenty-one Steps III  
51 x 75 cm mixed media & oil on canvas 2012

## **RALPH FREEMAN** (abbreviated biography)

Born London 1945, Ralph Freeman studied at St Martin's and Harrow Schools of Art 1961-1965.

Worked as artist, musician, designer and art director in London and Europe until 1983; thereafter painted exclusively and performed with various jazz projects both as composer and pianist.

1988 moved to St Ives; elected member of the Newlyn and the Penwith Societies of Artists.

1996 granted tenancy of No6 Porthmeor Studios. Later that year formed the St Ives Jazz Club, now twice nominated for the Parliamentary Jazz Awards.

Work exhibited in UK, Germany, Italy, Holland and USA

### **Selected solo exhibitions**

Tate St Ives, Freud Museum, Camden Arts Centre, Royal Cornwall Museum, Gardner Arts Centre, Castello di Pomerio, Artspace and Millennium Gallery, St Ives (regular shows).

### **Selected group exhibitions**

Wordsworth Trust; New Mexico Artists for Peace; Chicago Art Expo; Edinburgh Festival; Falmouth Art Gallery; Newlyn and Penwith Galleries; Maidstone Museum; Nunnery Gallery; Royal West of England Academy; Beatrice Royal Gallery; Jean Monet Haus, Berlin; Ben Uri Gallery.

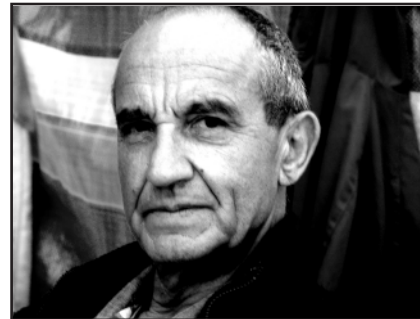
### **Public collections**

Freud Museum, London; Yad Vashem, Jerusalem; Falmouth Art Gallery; Yamaha, Alco Corp, Korea.

Visiting lectureships: Central St Martin's College of Art; University College Falmouth; University of Sussex; University of Central England and Bournemouth College of Art.

Commissions include murals, stage sets, photographic projects and a wide range of cultural, musical, social and corporate multimedia design work. He has been the subject of numerous publications, more recently including *The Journal of the History of Modern Art 2010* (G. Morra).

For further information and full biography please contact Campden Gallery.





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