



Alan Gouk

RECENT SMALL PAINTINGS

28 September - 16 October 2021

Ju-Ju Gong, 2021
oil on board
56 cm x 112 cm



LINDEN HALL STUDIO
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"At the last talk I gave at Hampstead School of Art I remember being asked if I ever painted on board, and I said no, because I didn't like the streaky brushwork (thinking of other practitioners who favoured board.) But then I saw some paintings by Alan Davie, which had none of those flaws. And with lockdown I came across some white coated mdf, the kind used for kitchen cabinets, and gave it a whirl.

I was surprised to find how direct my attack became, "utter directness" in Heron's mantra, how the resistance of the board enabled an immediacy and finality of each stroke, and how scraping out with palette knives brought one back to that resistance, allowing an element of direct incisive drawing that is harder to sustain on the more yielding canvas. And there need not be any streaking effects if one varied the consistency of paints with turpentine.

It took me back to some of the innocence of the earliest paintings I ever did, when I painted on hardboard offcuts, and I explored these early connections in a variety of styles, converting what had been palettes for larger paintings into palette knifed encrustations, or else thinning them down in free association and accepting the results. Free of grandiose or "serious" ambitions, these little pictures attest to my own mantra — make a statement, trust what you do, and do it more."



Blue Macaw, 2020
oil on board
61 cm x 97 cm



Chocktaw Nation IV, 2020
oil on board
61 cm x 97 cm



Cockle Shell, 2021
oil on board
37 cm x 56 cm



Flying Fox - Collision, 2020
oil on board
60 cm x 93 cm



Flying Fox - Orientation 1, 2020
oil on board
60 cm x 103 cm



Minerals Series No 2. (Feldspar), 2020
oil on board
42 cm x 61 cm



Mineral Series No 3, 2020
oil on board
30 cm x 46 cm



Minerals Series No 4, 2020
oil on board
36 cm x 54 cm



Le Tourbillon Des Chauves-souris 2020
oil on board
61 cm x 97 cm



Rain Opal, 2020
oil on board
61 cm x 92 cm



Sayeth the Hummingbird, 2020/21
oil on board
61 cm x 81 cm



Solemn Apple Echo, 2020
oil on board
61 cm x 97 cm



Falling Apple Echo 2020
oil on board
61 cm x 97 cm



Oystercatcher 2021
oil on board
30 cm x 62 cm



Opal Hummingbird, 2020
oil on board
48 cm x 71 cm



Gold Crest (Peridot), 2020
oil on board
48 cm x 71 cm