

Artist Gardens III

Bernard Ollis

Linton & Kay Gallery, 2022



Painting Descriptions

1. *Suzanne Valadon's Studio, Montmartre*

This painting is a faithful recreation of her actual 'atelier', where she worked and lived in the late 19th and early 20th century. As an artists muse, she modelled for Renoir and Toulouse-Lautrec amongst many others. The illegitimate daughter of a laundress in Montmartre, she rose to great heights as an artist herself, in spite of her street urchin status. I have visited her studio on many occasions. This is a large painting exploring her environment and views looking out onto the hill of Montmartre.



2. *Matisse's View*

Henri Matisse rented and painted in many locations around the hills of Nice, on the Cote D'Azur. This painting is a homage to him. A lady gazes out onto the mediterranean sea from a room on the third floor, looking, or possibly waiting.



3. *Villa Le Californie (Picasso's Studio)*

In the hills around the French Riviera is one of Picasso's later studios, where he lived and worked after World War II. It is a grand villa, with elaborate floor boards, doorways and views onto the garden. In this work, I have painted his dachshund, 'Lump', and his favourite rocking chair, surrounded by his own work. Perhaps the shadow, bottom left, is the artist himself about to enter the space.



4. *Erskineville Garden II (Smaller Version)*

This is my own rear garden, with painted decking and walls. The first shows the rich foliage and high fences, which turns the garden into an intimate and private space. The second painting shows part of the house and is a homage by my partner, Wendy Sharpe, to Matisse's 'Dance of Life'. In the foreground is the glasses and wine.



5. *Erskineville Garden II**

*Combined description with 4. Erskineville Garden II



6. *Giverny (Monet's Garden)*

Monet's Japanese inspired garden and lake lies next to his house and studio in Giverny, to the north of Paris. It is an ever changing organic environment, usually very crowded with tourists, especially the bridge. However, occasionally in the mornings or late in the day, it is a quiet sanctuary; where you may observe the location where Monet gained so much inspiration.



7. *Villa Le Reve (Matisse's Studio)*

Villa Le Reve (House of Dreams) is a special house and studio, where Matisse lived and worked in later years. Today it is an art studio and workshop. Here he developed his famous cut-outs and designed the chapel in Vence, which is 100 metres up the road. I am opening his doors and looking out on his verandah, with his garden and distant views of the medieval town of Vence, just north of the Riviera in the background



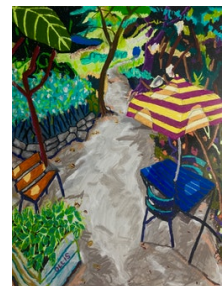
8. *Hockney's Pool (Version 3)*

David Hockney was my tutor at the Royal College of Art, London, in the early 1970s. I have kept in touch with him sporadically ever since. This was his view from the bedroom in L.A.; with the signature curved shapes in the water imitating his paintings. David now resides in northern France.



9. *Whiteley's Garden Version 3*

Brett Whiteley came to my first solo exhibition at Macquarie Galleries, Sydney, in 1978. His own house/studio in Lavender Bay has been developed further by his former wife, Wendy, to create a quiet haven on the banks of Sydney Harbour.



10. *Renoir's Pathway Version 3*

Renoir's garden at Cagnes Sur Mer is now a living museum dedicated to him and some of his paintings. Part of its fascination is the free standing plaques with paintings of ancient olive trees and houses, placed strategically at the point where he actually painted them in later life. It becomes a magical experience wandering the ornate pathways in the footsteps of the artist.



11. *Renoir's Pathway Version 4 **

*Combined description with *Renoir's Pathway Version 3*



12. *Van Gogh's Hospital Room (St Remy de Provence) Version 3*

This is the actual room and view of Vincent hospital bedroom repeat with are on the window, where he was treated for what we now know as schizophrenia. The room is at the top of a narrow winding staircase. It is part of what was a medieval monastery, so the whole place is full of atmosphere. In his room was his writing desk, chair and bed. During his recovery, he was allowed to wander out on the grounds, where he painted the local landscape.



13. *Van Gogh's Hospital Grounds (St Remy de Provence) Version 3*

This view is typical of where Van Gogh wandered during his recuperation. There are plaques around the grounds in different locations showing where he painted his subject matter. On the top left of this painting you can see the building where he was being treated.



14. *Renoir's Swing, Montmartre Version 3*

In the garden of the now Museum of Montmartre is a swing. Next to this is a plaque showing where the young Renoir painted a girl with male admirers in 1876. Beyond the swing, in the top right of this work, you can view Susan Valadon's studio.



15. *Snow in Paris - Vaugirard Version 3*

The whole of inner Paris is a history of visual art - a magnet in which practically all artists wanted to be or be seen. *Snow in Paris* is not your typical view, but a reality of life in the winter months, where struggling artists continued to pursue their dreams, and more practically, the need to survive.



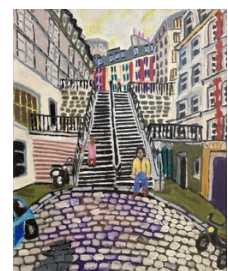
16. *Place Dauphine Paris*

In the old centre of Paris, between the islands of the Seine, lies Place Dauphine. A short walk to the Louvre or Orangerie and D'Orsay museums. Today it is a tourist Mecca, in which you can add the Pompidou centre to that list of museums.



17. *The Cyrano de Bergerac Steps*

The Cyrano d Bergerac Steps, Montmartre was home to all the artists from the late 19th century to the time of the first World War. A who's who of artists would have ascended or descended these steps; including Sonia Delaunay, Picasso, Modigliani, Renoir, Valadon, Dali and Dali. The steps are actually a stones throw from our own modest apartment.



18. *Seine Embankment Panorama*

I walk this embankment on numerous occasions. In particular that twilight period, where the neon lamps effect upon the flowing water and the world seems a peaceful place.



19. *Coiffeur Rue du Rivoli*

I painted this hairdressers on a side street and steps off the busy Rue du Rivoli, one of the main shopping streets of Paris.

