

"Painter, photographer, art critic and past president of the RWA, all undertaken at the highest levels of passionate engagement and professionalism. Derek Balmer has packed a lot into his 65 year career.

Trained in Bristol, he was a key figure in a vibrant Bristol art scene in the 1960s, and though photography (at the Bristol Old Vic) may have then earned him a living, he never stopped painting and exhibiting.

With a style influenced initially by Graham Sutherland and latterly by Bonnard, Lanyon, Hoyland and the Abstract Expressionists, he has steadily forged these diverse influences into a richly expressive, colouristic way of working, quite intensely personal in character. With its exuberant evocations of Italy and Spain, the exhibition shows him as daring and inquisitive as ever."

Nicholas Usherwood - Galleries magazine November 2016

