



Clockwise, from above, *Flood Land*, *Winter Marshland*, *Spring Deluge* and *Drifting*

Exhibition exposes us to the elements

With titles like *Wet into Wet*, *Flood Land*, *Spring Deluge*, *Brave Elements* aptly reflecting the recent turbulent weather, Claire Wiltsher's new solo exhibition at Bath Contemporary at first hearing sounds more like a news bulletin than an art show.

But Wiltsher, in exploring not only the energy and wilderness of our open spaces but also the impact of the elements upon these, gives us a fresh slant on the power of the elements.

Based in the New Forest, Wiltsher draws inspiration from her wooded surroundings and adjacent coastline, walking for hours as she gathers photographs and sketches from which to work.

Once back in her studio Wiltsher can almost complete a canvas in a singular session, working instinctively and intuitively.

Each landscape comes alive with an energetic application of paint as her multi-layered surfaces build with a series of flicks, scrapes and sweeping brush marks.

Completing her MA Fine Art at Northumbria University, Wiltsher decided to focus solely on her artistic practice in 2009 following a period of teaching. She now has work in the permanent collection of The House of Lords and has won the 'Rosemary and Co Award' at the Society of Women Artists exhibition (Mall Galleries, 2010).

Her exhibition *A Sense of Place* can be seen at Bath Contemporary until April 5.

