

The background is a textured oil painting. The upper portion is dominated by a sky with thick, expressive brushstrokes in shades of blue, teal, and white, suggesting a bright, overcast day. Below the sky, a dense line of trees in various shades of green and brown stretches across the middle ground. In the foreground, there's a body of water or a sandy shore with warm, golden-brown and ochre tones, interspersed with darker, more saturated colors. The overall style is impressionistic and highly textured.

JOURNEYS from the forest to the sea

CLAIRE WILTHER

This book is dedicated to Jean Wiltsher
for her kindness, love and support.

FOREWORD

As editor of *The Artist* magazine I am always interested to discover talented artists previously unknown to me with a passionate dedication to the evolving development of their work. Claire Wiltsher, who I was pleased to profile in a feature in the magazine in September 2013, is a great example of an artist whose openness to new stimuli is demonstrated by her extensive travels, and whose journeys inform the impressive studio paintings for which she has become well-known.

Like many other travelling artists, Claire uses her sketches completed in situ and memories of locations, weather conditions, dramatic light effects and the myriad textures of the natural environment, back in the studio to recreate an atmospheric sense of place in her final paintings. I personally love paintings that provide a suggestion and mood of a place and which invite you to engage with the work, rather than seek to illustrate the appearance of reality. Claire's work exemplifies the former approach; the spontaneity and gestural nature of her mark making, like Pollock before her, exudes energy and results in luscious, tactile surfaces. You can see the influence of music in the rhythms of these surfaces, so much so that her paintings become sensory experiences, full of atmosphere.

Dr Sally Bulgin
Publishing editor of *The Artist* magazine
www.painters-online.co.uk



Saturated in spring (detail), oil and mixed media, 100 x 100cm
FRONT COVER: **Saturated in spring**, oil and mixed media, 100 x 100cm
PAGE 1: **Sea Clearing**, oil and mixed media, 90 x 90cm



www.clairewiltsher.com

Popular contemporary British artist Claire Wiltsher documents her journeys with this wonderful collection of paintings in her spontaneous and expressive style.

Claire is strongly influenced by Turner's emotive atmospheric colour work and the expressive mark making of Jackson Pollock.

She combines aspects of reality with partly ambiguous elements. From her paintings of forest land to her vast seascapes she interprets weather conditions and dramatic changes in light to portray the mood and sense of place.

'This book beautifully encapsulates Claire's journey as an artist and the impact of her travels on her work. It also reveals visually the basic philosophy behind her 20 years of teaching experience.'

Dr Sally Bulgin

Publishing editor of *The Artist* magazine

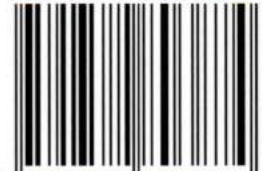
'Journeys from the forest to the sea gives a valuable insight into the artist's work, her background and technique. The illustrations combined with the occasional poem and the biographical detail ensure a fascinating and enjoyable read.'

Lawson Bell

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