



JOHN HILLIARD



FACETS OF LIGHT

JOHN HILLIARD

Front cover:

**West Light Series VIII**

pastel on paper  
36.3 x 44.7 cm

This catalogue accompanies an exhibition at  
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# FACETS OF LIGHT

PASTELS BY

# JOHN HILLIARD

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**Brighton Series I**  
pastel on paper  
56.5 x 76 cm

John Hilliard's art investigates the nature of light. Inspired by walks along beaches, his images are not in any way topographical but explorations of the interplay between light, reflected light, sea and sky. The moods and atmospheres expressed in these pictures derive from the ever shifting behaviour of light as it creates, and reacts to, changing conditions, seasons and weathers. Some works are vividly expressive, describing strongly Romantic skies, where others are subtle, cool and reflective. Some skies appear to be in constant swirling motion, frenetically pulling the viewer's eye around the picture surface where others display the quiet of, for example, the mist of a December dawn. On each occasion, Hilliard's experience of the landscape is distilled into his attempts to capture ever shifting light within a moment of time.

The pictures positively glow. Hilliard's pastels, in the way he blends his colours, become as paint under his guiding hand. His deft handling is subtle one moment and dramatic the next. The explosion of colour is eye-catching, ranging from soft pinks, blues and oranges to fierce yellows and charcoal greys. The colour and the swirl of movement echo the work of J.M.W. Turner, and like Turner, Hilliard finds endless inspiration in his subject. The pictures are truly impressions of light, and since light is hard to capture graphically, so his images verge on the abstract, though never losing the sense of an underlying landscape that gives each picture its structure. There is always the slightest sense of scene, landscape forms – rocks, promontories, dunes - vaguely suggested.

Hilliard lives and works in West Somerset. It is this western coast and that of North Devon with which he is directly engaged. The Brighton Series arises from a visit there. He exhibits locally and has started to have his work shown in London where new audiences are discovering this remarkable work. And though he also works with oils on canvas, it is for his consummate skill with pastel he is most highly considered.

Geoffrey Bertram



**West Light Series V**  
pastel on paper  
56.5 x 76 cm



**West Light Series IV**

pastel on paper

56.5 x 76 cm



**Brighton Series II**  
pastel on paper  
56.5 x 76 cm



**Brighton Series III**

pastel on paper

56.5 x 76 cm



**West Light Series I**

pastel on paper

56.5 x 76 cm



**Brighton Series V**

pastel on paper

56.5 x 76 cm



**West Light Series III**

pastel on paper

56.5 x 76 cm



**West Light Series II**  
pastel on paper  
56.5 x 76 cm



**Brighton Series IV**  
pastel on paper  
56.5 x 76 cm



**West Light Series VII**

pastel on paper

28.3 x 37.8 cm



**West Light Series X**  
pastel on paper  
39 x 52 cm



**West Light Series IX**

pastel on paper

28.7 x 38.4 cm



**West Light Series VI**

pastel on paper

20.8 x 29.8 cm



**West Light Series XI**  
pastel on paper  
28.8 x 37.5 cm





