



SUE FITZGERALD



Apple Orchard in Wye, Kent, 50 x 60cm

Sue Fitzgerald

June 2022

CATTO GALLERY

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Sue Fitzgerald's vivid, colourful and vibrant new collection is a tribute to her memory and her sketch book. For once, it's nothing to do with her passport. To explain: Sue is a traveller. In a typical year she makes several trips to exotic destinations. Her objective? To seek out new fabrics, textiles and local objects of interest. She then brings her discoveries home to serve as inspiration for her fabulous work.

Obviously, the pandemic put a stop to all that. Instead, Sue was confined to the Kent countryside. But a lack of overseas travel couldn't stop the itch to paint. In the absence of fresh inspiration, Sue opened up her bulging trove of treasures. She was pleasantly surprised.

"Painting this new series was certainly different," she says. "I had to rely far more on my experiences and my memories. And obviously my sketch book too. But I actually really enjoyed it. Looking through my objects, I re-discovered some items that I would definitely not otherwise have considered."

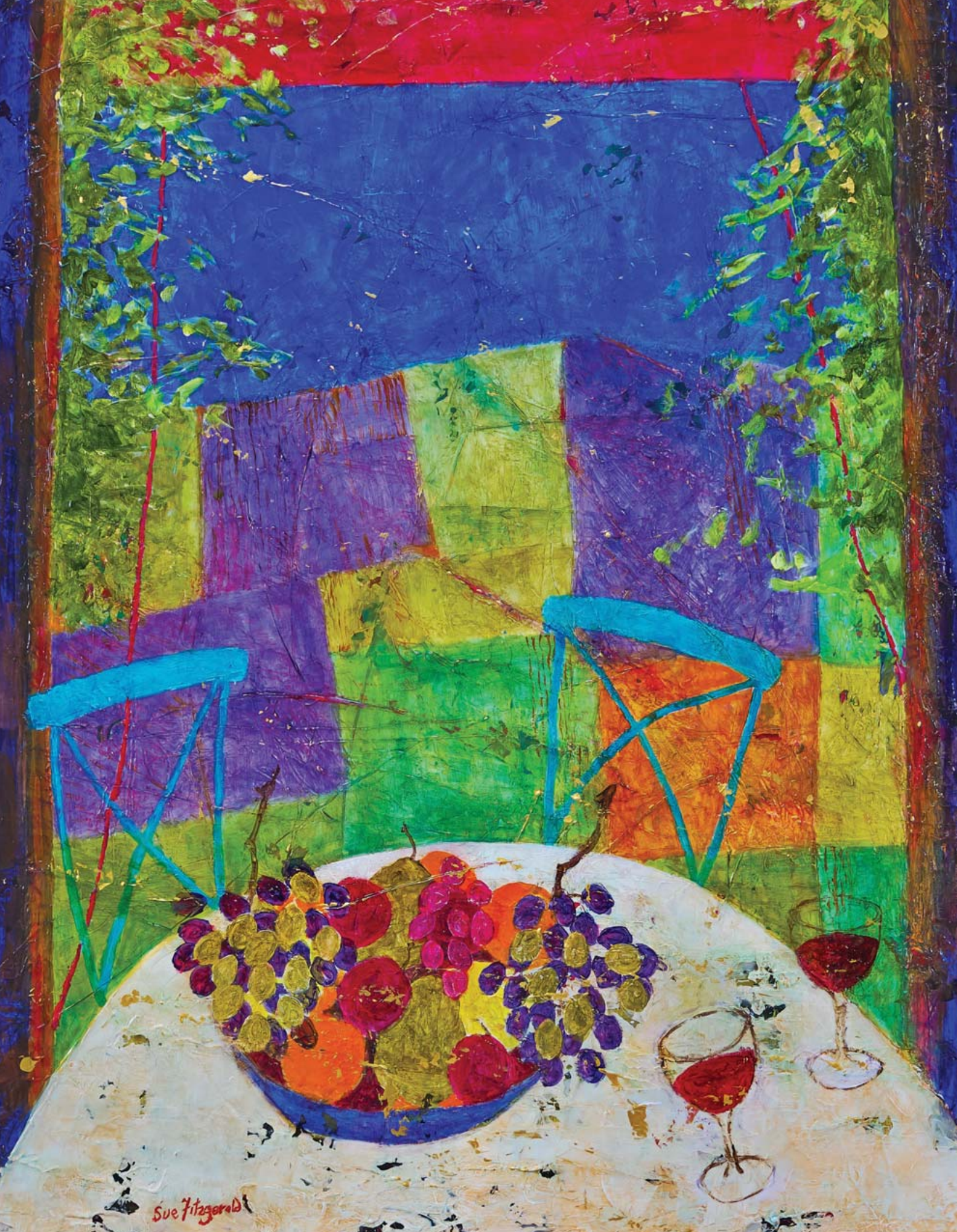
She gives the example of the fan that appears in 'Tea On The Verandah, Singapore'. "I'd forgotten I had it," she says. "But fans are such a great shape aren't they? I knew a fan would work really well in that composition."

While the pandemic prevented Sue from travelling, it did nudge her towards exploring the countryside around her. For the first time in a long time, Sue painted local scenes. This proved another pleasant surprise for the artist, and we can see the happy consequence of this in works such as *The Weald, Kent*.

Sue might have been creatively inspired by her enforced stay-at-home status, but one gets the impression that she would have painted regardless. Why? Because she is a grafter. "I am an early riser, and I try to start painting at 7.30 every day," she says. "I'll do this six, sometimes seven days a week when I have a new exhibition to work towards. I was in the studio all through the winter. My friends would complain about the awful weather, and I would genuinely not know what they were talking about."

We should be delighted at Sue's work ethic. She is one of the UK's finest colourists. Her work is a feast for the eyes, just like that of the 'Nabis' school of French painters – Vuillard, Bonnard and Denis – that she openly admires. Like them she delights in playing with perspective and colour. She is willing to abandon conventional perspective in her compositions if it serves a greater artistic 'truth'

Indeed, she pushes this impulse so far that some of her work verges on abstract geometry. The result is a painting such as 'Vines in Late Summer: Clemont l'Hérault'. Sue says: "You look at those fields and they really do resemble patchwork. The colours change all the time. There's no other way to paint them."



Sue Fitzgerald



Linen, 60 x 75cm



Tea on the Verandah, Singapore, 70 x 90cm



Saffron, 90 x 70cm



Poppies & Sari Silk, 60 x 50cm



Peach Trees and Vines near St Bazille, 50 x 60cm



Spring, Languedoc Roussillon, 49 x 59cm



Cobalt Silk and Orchid, 70 x 90cm



Treasures from Distant Lands, 49 x 49cm



Silks from Lodeve Brocante, 49 x 49cm



Sue Fitzgerald

The Weald, Kent, 60 x 50cm



Tulips, 50 x 60cm



Pre-Theatre Lunch, Victoria Theatre, Singapore, 70 x 90cm



Vines in Late Summer: Clemont l'Hérault, 50 x 60cm



Golden Poppies, 75 x 60cm



Lane in the Weald, Kent, 60 x 50cm



Tables and Tea Bowls, 50 x 60cm



Coffee in Rue des Rosiers, Paris, 70 x 90cm



Wine and Olives: St Bazille de la Sylve, 60 x 50cm





Paranakan Wedding China and Anemones, 34 x 45cm



Red Lacquer Table, 60 x 75cm

Back Cover: Wildflowers, Troodos Mountains, Cyprus, 50 x 60cm



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Opening times: 10am - 5.30pm Mon-Sat
12.00 - 5pm Sunday • and by appointment

Exhibition dates: 12th – 30th June 2022