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TRISH CLARK GALLERY



STEPHEN BAMBURY | Slow Burn (Redux)

20 March – 11 May 2024

Press Release

TRISH CLARK GALLERY PRESS RELEASE:

STEPHEN BAMBURY | *Slow Burn (Redux)*  
20 March – 11 May 2024



We are delighted to present *Slow Burn (Redux)*, Stephen Bambury's first solo exhibition in Auckland since 2019. Following covid-related delays, Bambury delivers significant bodies of new work, alongside a curated selection of earlier works which speak eloquently to his current concerns. Never a formalist, and having always insisted that his painting creates a context where an experiential exchange can take place, Bambury allowed meaning to sit obliquely. Galvanised by the urgency of humanity's challenges in the current decade, the end of which marks the oft-quoted 2030 'tipping point' beyond which planetary changes might well be outside human capacity for mitigation, Bambury gives potent voice in these new works to foregrounded meaning. As Bambury says, The world is an idea, the planet is a reality. The planet will go on turning but the world won't.

Throughout his career, Bambury has travelled extensively in Europe, Asia, and the USA, exploring art and architecture from a diversity of historic periods and cultures. These experiences are integral to his long studio practice, not peripheral pleasures. Bambury has long practised reconnecting contemporary art to threads of the atavistic, understanding how this can amplify subtle connections and inspirations. *Slow Burn (Redux)* carries dual allusions to the situation humanity now finds itself in and Bambury's sustained material and motif explorations over time. Exhibited works utilise precious and semi-precious metal gilding, graphite, resin, chemical patinas, rust, screen printing and pigment prints alongside the artist's various studio produced paints.

These practices eventually coalesce as a life's work, and we are delighted to announce that in 2025 we will be presenting an exhibition marking five decades of Bambury's public exhibiting.

Born in Christchurch, Stephen Bambury has been exhibiting regularly in New Zealand since the mid-1970s, after graduating with a Diploma of Fine Arts (Hons) from the University of Auckland. From the mid-1980s he has exhibited in the USA, Australia, France, Germany, Austria and Slovenia. Among other awards he received the inaugural New Zealand Moët & Chandon Fellowship in 1989; including the Fellowship period, Bambury spent two and a half years living and working in France – a life-changing experience. A major retrospective exhibition at Wellington's City Gallery and Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki and the publication of a monograph marked the turn of the century. Since 2009 Bambury has been showing and is represented in Germany. In 2017 he established a studio in France, since then dividing his time working between New Zealand and Europe.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES PLEASE CONTACT THE GALLERY

[info@trishclark.co.nz](mailto:info@trishclark.co.nz)

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*World Still Turning (a work in seven parts) (1/3), 2008/2022*  
Seven framed inkjet prints on Hahnemuhle 300gsm photorag paper  
840 x 7968 mm

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*The Turning of the Bones*, 2019  
Acrylic and 24k gold leaf on three aluminium panels on plywood  
170 x 255 mm

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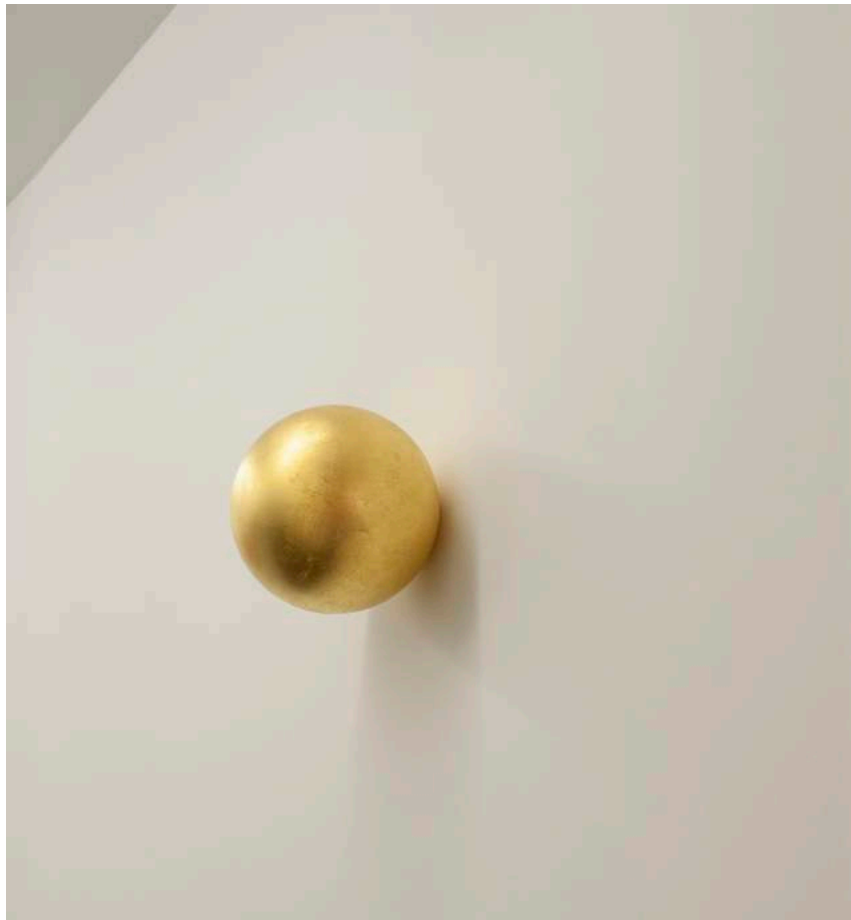


*Twenty Thirty (IX) (NIGHT/DAY), 2023*  
Lacquer & chemical action on two copper panels on ply  
170 x 340 mm

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*Paradox of Knowledge (Purpleheart), 2022*  
Turned purpleheart wood and 23k gold  
150 x 150 mm

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*Sight Line (XXXI)*, 2024  
Chemical action and acrylic on four copper panels and aluminium extrusion  
183 x 360 mm