



ALICE BOYLE | HOWE STREET ARTS



3 August 2016 Vivien Devlin

Pop Up Gallery at Edinburgh Ski Club, 2 Howe Street
Exhibition continues until August 14
Open daily, 10am – 7pm.

"I try to apply colors like words that shape poems, like notes that shape music. For me, a picture should be like sparks. It must dazzle like the beauty of a woman or a poem. It must have radiance; What I am seeking is a motionless movement, something equivalent to what is called the eloquence of silence." Joan Miro

Amidst a feast of visual art around Edinburgh this month, an absolute must-see exhibition is "We're All Imperfect Circles," by Alice Boyle, at Howe Street Arts, a pop up gallery at the **Edinburgh Ski Club, 2 Howe Street**.

Alice studied for a Masters degree in Interior Architecture at Edinburgh College of Art, which gave her a creative understanding of design, atmosphere and space. After graduating, she was inspired by the turrets and towers of her family home, Kelburn Castle, Ayrshire, where she curated a unique art project working with Brazilian artists to paint the external walls of the castle in effervescent graffiti animation. How innovative is this!

The paintings in this show all have enchanting titles, such as "The Moment Before Touching," a beautifully constructed image of two huge white circles, separated by a millimetre, against a backdrop of golden sunlight and a grass green landscape. It could represent the elusive spark of hands, lips, faces, about to touch. And I love the moody, rather menacing, "The Weight of Winter is Lifting" depicting a bold pattern of grey clouds, snow and dripping, melting ice.

Working in acrylic and plaster on hard board, each work is so distinctive in choice of colour –splashes and streaks of bright pinks, splashes turquoise, orange and coral with thick brushstrokes. The contrasting textures and patterns are mesmerising often with a real sense of humour, such as adding tiny, almost hidden, symbolic Aboriginal-styled images of fingers, ears, cats as well as shining crescent moons – as illustrated here in "Don't Follow the Crowd."

"I am inspired by the power of dreams, mythology and use textures, vivid colours, shapes, symbols and layering techniques, aiming to stimulate the senses" Alice Boyle

"Nothing but Love" is a series of smaller paintings in gilt frames, such as the gold and black pebble-like shapes in "I am Actually Really Shy," a quirky, simplified image denoting a quiet moment of solitude; its pure, cool abstract elegance is reminiscent of the masterly artwork of Victor Pasmore.

This is a stunning collection of vibrantly, vivacious paintings which dazzle and radiate with pure colour and dancing shapes, brimming with energy as well as quiet, peaceful reflection. Akin to Miro's philosophy, beyond the initial impression of freeflowing, surreal compositions, these express a true sense of human emotion, spirituality and a zest for life.

As well as the original Acrylic paintings, giclee prints of each work are also available for sale at this exhibition. www.alice-boyle.co.uk

[Rettie & Co.](#), (Edinburgh Residential Property) has kindly sponsored Alice Boyle with the work involved in setting up this pop up gallery, marketing and promotion.

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