

# THE INWARD JOURNEY

By Alice Boyle

## What's in a Title?

Five people of very different interests have given titles to each of my paintings, which are discreetly displayed on the walls next to each image but without attribution. It is a very simple concept, exploring the way different people see things, interpret symbols, colours and effects, and then sum them up into words.

The people titling the paintings are; Christopher Balfour former head of Christie's Europe for 5 years, Dr Oliver Jackson who has little experience of the art world, Elisa Segrave, the renowned author of, 'The Diary of a Breast', Ruby and Chilli Holt, sisters aged 6 and 8 working together and Alice herself.

Gallery visitors have a choice to ignore the titles or they can select the titles that best express their own subjective feeling about each painting. Potentially, the concept could encourage the viewer to think up entirely new titles, which will make the show interactive, and, I hope, encourage discussion. Importantly, I am not trying to force this upon people; visitors will only feel the need to participate if they are sufficiently intrigued.

The idea relates directly to the developing thoughts of what my art is about; my paintings aim to stimulate the viewer's own imagination and touch upon the atmosphere and power of myth, which deals with symbols, and archetypes of the psyche. By asking individuals to title an image, it is asking them to look deeper, consciously or subconsciously using learned or innate associations with symbols, textures and colors to come to an assessment of the image. Titles of my pictures often change. They can sometimes be influenced by what someone else has seen in them and, occasionally, a painting is born out of a title. Since the advent of Whistlers unconventional title, 'Arrangement in Grey and Black', in 1871, or how we have come to know it, 'Whistlers Mother', the naming of paintings has in many instances developed more meaning rather than just a descriptive analogy.

The story of how a title or name comes into being has always fascinated me; I am not, saying it is of primary importance to a painting but, once a painting has spoken to you in some way, the title can often enhance your emotional associations with it.

When viewers wish to buy a painting or a print, they can choose a title out of the five possible titles displayed, and I will let them know who named it.



Lost  
Only Lamb in Summer  
Lamb Alone  
Orange Terror  
Shepherds Delight

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