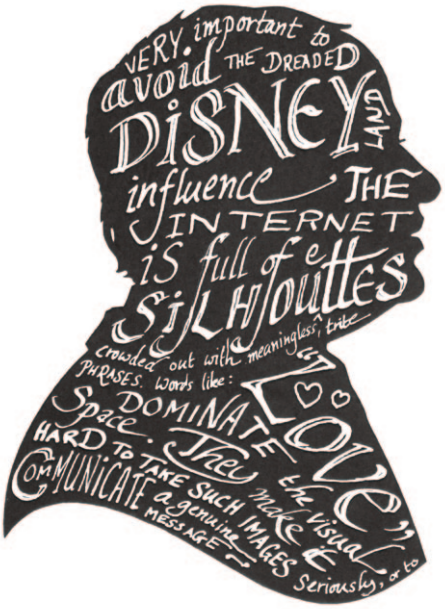
Mays Barn 2019

STUDIO CATALOGUE



Internal Landscape VII: Crowsley Park, oil on canvas, 2018

Can a scissor-cut silhouette be called a portrait? Superficially, the answer would appear to be "Yes". Yet, after years of cutting them, I still find myself fascinated by what is missing from a silhouette as much as what is included. Silhouetes are known as "shades" for a reason; there is literally nothing there, just the shadow remains. What hapens when a drawing or painting is placed inside a silhouette? For me, it becomes a kind of window, a keyhole image into another world. I've been finding all kinds of things inside these internal landscapes.

New artwork by Charles Burns during 2018

Internal Landscape V: Crowsley Park, oil on canvas, 2018

In the past I have explored the idea of images inside silhouettes fairly extensively using life studies. Many of these drawings were concerned with themes of invisibility, and physically cut the figire out the picture. During 2018 I revisited the idea with a series a large landscapes, and some smaller graphic works.

Provisionally, I have called these pieces “Internal Landscapes”, although I not yet happy with this name. Can you think of a better one? Looking at them, people often ask about the connection between the landscape the person. Personally, I prefer not to pin this connection down. As the artist I am concerned more about the adstract qualities of the work; the problems of composition and painting being dictated by the outline. I feel very comfotable working inside a silhouette, but am happy to leave it for the viewer to make any further connections.

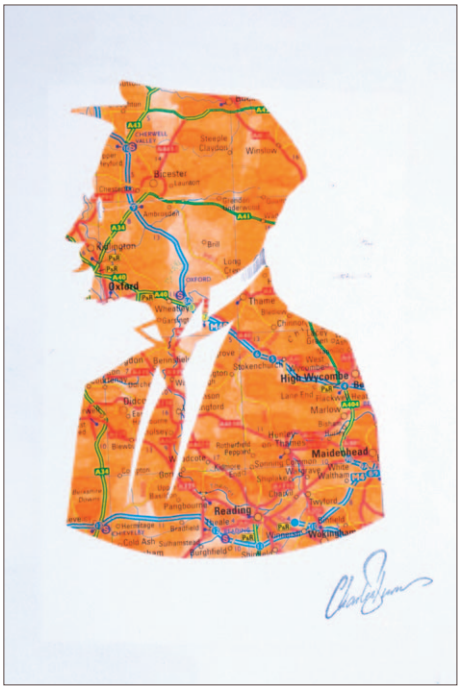
The Internal Landscapes are painted oil on canvas and are available as original oil paintings or as giclée prints. The larger prints are cut with scissors to redefine the edge: a process which happily builds on their origin as small, black scissor cuttings.

Internal Landscape I: Crowsley Park, oil on canvas, 2018

Internal Landscape II: Watch Folly, oil on canvas, 2018

Internal Landscape IV: Crowsley Park, oil on canvas, 2018

INSET: pages from the Cover-2-Cover sketchbook project, 2018



A series of graphic experiments using maps, text, magazine clippings and other elements inside and outside the silhouette. These were made as part of the 2018 "Cover 2 Cover" sketchbook project.

I made them to get a sense of what might work, to find new ways of combining silhouettes with other imagery. Many of them lead to future lines of artistic enquiry, one of which became the Internal lLndscapes series. Sketchbooks are available to view in the studio, but remain the property fo the artist. They're a rich source of ideas for future work!

INSET: pages from the Cover-2-Cover sketchbook project, 2018

Studio visits and exhibitions

I always welcome visits from those who may be interested in my work. Please get in touch to arrange an appointment. If you would like to kept informed about future exhibitons please drop me a line.

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