

GARDENERS OF EDEN

Claire Milner Unites Contemporary Painting and Tropical Forest Conservation

NoonPowell Fine Art, Richmond

18 September–4 October 2026

NoonPowell Fine Art is pleased to present *Gardeners of Eden*, a major solo exhibition of new paintings by British artist Claire Milner, exploring biodiversity, ecology and humanity's relationship with the natural world.

Bringing together a remarkable body of work developed over the past two years, the exhibition draws on the traditions of landscape painting while responding to the ecological realities of the present. Through richly layered surfaces, forests, oceans and wildlife emerge gradually, inviting viewers into landscapes where species, habitat and atmosphere are intricately connected.

At the heart of the exhibition is a landmark collaboration with American artist and land conservationist Dr. Haley Mellin and the artist-founded nonprofit Art into Acres. Through the sale of Milner's painting *The Hidden and the Revealed*, Claire Milner and NoonPowell Fine Art will donate 100% of proceeds to support tropical forest conservation in Suriname. The donation will be amplified through matching conservation funds, demonstrating how contemporary art can contribute directly to environmental conservation.

Central to the exhibition, *The Hidden and the Revealed* takes as its subject one of the planet's most remarkable ecosystems. Inspired by Suriname's tropical rainforest, the painting rewards sustained observation as native species gradually emerge from dense foliage, revealing the complex ecological relationships that sustain the forest.

The conservation initiative is connected with the Saamaka Community Conserved Area in Suriname, encompassing approximately 720,000 hectares of tropical forest under Saamaka leadership. Established in March 2026, the protected area represents an important community-led commitment to the long-term conservation of one of the world's most biodiverse landscapes.

Reflecting on the collaboration, Dr. Haley Mellin, Founder of Art into Acres, says:

"The permanent protection of nature depends on unlikely partnerships. Claire's generosity, together with Noon Powell Fine Art and our conservation partners, demonstrates how the arts can help accelerate lasting protection for some of the world's most biodiverse and culturally significant landscapes."

Other works in *Gardeners of Eden* explore distinct ecological narratives. *Burning World* considers landscapes shaped by rising temperatures and fire. *A Fifty-Million-Year-Old Smile* evokes an ancient continuity, a trace of life that has endured across millennia yet feels precarious in the present. *Anthropocene Twilight* explores the rainforest as changing light alters perception and orientation, while the exhibition's title work, *Gardeners of Eden*, centres on elephants as keystone species whose movements shape forests and sustain biodiversity across entire ecosystems.

Materiality is fundamental to Milner's practice. Her paintings incorporate sustainably sourced natural mineral pigments whose geological formation spans millions of years, creating a direct material relationship between the works and the environments they depict. In bringing medium and subject into such close alignment, Milner acknowledges the deep time and physical processes that continue to shape the natural world.

Reflecting on the exhibition, Milner says:

"Art has long responded to the defining questions of its time. My work begins with the natural world, not only as a source of imagery but as something to which painting can remain materially and ethically connected. Supporting conservation through my painting allows my practice to extend beyond the studio, contributing directly to the protection of the landscapes and wildlife that inspire it. Collaborating with Haley Mellin and Art into Acres brings together artistic practice and long-term environmental stewardship in a way that feels both necessary and urgent."

Rachael Noon-Powell, Gallery Director, says:

“Claire’s work has an extraordinary ability to draw viewers into the natural world through closer observation and discovery. We are proud to present Gardeners of Eden and to support a collaboration that demonstrates how art can inspire meaningful action beyond gallery walls.”

At a moment of profound ecological change, Gardeners of Eden invites us to look more closely at the intricate systems that connect all forms of life. Celebrating the beauty, resilience and interconnectedness of the natural world, the exhibition affirms the enduring capacity of art to deepen our understanding of the environments we inhabit — and our responsibility to protect them.

ABOUT CLAIRE MILNER

Claire Milner is a British artist based in North Yorkshire. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including in the Blue Zone at COP26, and is held in private and public collections worldwide. She has completed major commissions for prominent private collectors, including the acclaimed Marilyn portrait commissioned by Rihanna. Alongside her studio practice, Milner continues to collaborate with environmental organisations in support of conservation initiatives and is an Active Member of the Gallery Climate Coalition.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Exhibition: Gardeners of Eden

Artist: Claire Milner

Venue: NoonPowell Fine Art, 20 Red Lion Street, Richmond upon Thames, TW9 1RW

Private View: Thursday 17 September 2026, 7pm–9pm

Exhibition Dates: 18 September–4 October 2026

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Claire Milner and NoonPowell Fine Art will donate 100% of proceeds from the sale of The Hidden and the Revealed to support tropical forest conservation in Suriname.
- The Saamaka Community Conserved Area encompasses approximately 720,000 hectares (1,779,150 acres) of tropical forest in Suriname and was established in March 2026.
- [Art into Acres](#) is an artist-founded nonprofit that brings together artists, galleries, institutions, conservation organisations and philanthropic partners to support the permanent protection of ecologically significant landscapes. Its projects are locally requested and community- or Indigenous-led.
- Art into Acres works with conservation and matching-fund partners to amplify funds raised through the arts for permanent land protection.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For interview requests, images and further information, please contact:

Claire Milner

Email: clarry@claire-milner.co.uk

www.claire-milner.co.uk

Rachael Noon-Powell

Gallery Director, NoonPowell Fine Art

Email: rachael@noonpowellfineart.com

www.noonpowellfineart.com