

# Conversations with Nature

Alison Critchlow | Natalie Dowse | Helen Thomas

27 July – 21 August 2022

**Conversations with Nature** is the title of this exhibition. It includes the works of three artists who like to paint. The painters are Alison Critchlow, Natalie Dowse and Helen Thomas.

This is an exhibition that looks at the artists' passion for nature. Some works explore plants that grow their way through tiny cracks in pavements. Other works make us think about nature we might not know about yet.

The three artists share a passion for exploring nature. Sometimes they paint by going out to look at plants and find nature outside. Other times they paint the feelings and emotions they have and feel for nature. In both these cases, they use paint to show people the beauty of nature.

They also like to paint plants that grow in random places. These are places where you would not expect to find nature growing.

The three artists studied Art together in Cornwall 30 years ago. This is the first time they have shown their paintings in the same space.

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You can meet the three artists at The Art House on 21 August between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. They will take part in a talk about this exhibition.

You can book the event on The Art House website, or speak to a member of staff who can help.

## About the Artists

**Alison Critchlow** is a painter and lives in Cumbria. She has a studio where she likes to paint from memory after going out looking at nature. Sometimes her paintings of nature and plants are abstract, which means they do not look like the way we see them with our eyes, or in a photograph.

Alison likes to make texture with her paint. She likes to use speed to make fast brushstrokes and make marks.

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**Natalie Dowse** lives in Portsmouth. She has shown her paintings all over the world. Natalie likes to make paintings by working from photographs or from films. She often mixes images together to create unreal storylines. These then inspire her paintings to question what is real and what is not.

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**Helen Thomas** is an artist and she lives in Yorkshire. She has a studio here at The Art House where she likes to work. Helen likes to paint the plants that grow everyday. Her paintings look at plants that grow without the help of people.

These plants are known to 'self-seed'. This means they grow without being planted by humans. Because of this, some people think of them as weeds, and do not want them in their gardens. But Helen sees the beauty in them.