

Place - Hugh Buchanan

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Hugh Buchanan, a Scottish watercolour painter, is well known for his meticulous draughtsmanship, treatment of light and shadow in interiors, and for a sense of depth and space that is evocative of the work of Cotman and Piranesi.

Buchanan attended the Edinburgh College of Art after being born in Edinburgh in 1958. After finishing his studies, he was awarded travel scholarships to the Balkans, North Italy, and the Middle East. He now makes frequent trips to Europe to paint interiors and exteriors of structures dating from the Renaissance through the Baroque. He uses watercolour almost exclusively, and like David Hockney, he has recently produced work on a scale unheard of in conventional watercolour painting. Buchanan has completed interior design projects for Balmoral and Highgrove for both the Prince of Wales and the National Trust.

Hugh Buchanan captures the surfaces of gold, wood veneer, tapestry, and brocade in watercolour with an exceptional level of perfection and drama. His abilities were put to the test by the exhibition's subjects, which included ragged stretches of brocade damask wallpaper, flaking gold leaf, light on tapestry chairs, and ivory inlay on doors. According to Huon Mallalieu, "There is a seductive, narrative element in these furnishings that finds expression, for example, in the vignettes of rural children on the chair backs drawn from Boucher's "Jeux des enfants," a series of embroidered works and tapestries produced at the Gobelins workshops and originally intended for Madame de Pompadour."

In his most recent work, Buchanan has expertly expanded the applicability of watercolour painting while staying faithful to the medium's craft and heritage.

