

# THE ORIGINATORS

THE PAINTER *Simon Laurie*



**BOLDLY ABSTRACT.** The painter Simon Laurie takes elements of tradition and makes them fresh and bold. Gallery owners describe his art work as distinctly accessible, while also abstract. He exhibits in London as well as Edinburgh and Glasgow, where he grew up, and collectors from around the world purchase his work.

Like all Originators, Laurie, who largely works with acrylics and wood, has made a name for himself by making a statement. "My work's definitely not wishy-washy," says the Scot, referring to his use of strong shapes and colors. "I don't paint from life, I remember things. I recall objects and landscapes in my head. I reassess them and simplify them. I hone them and strip them back. When people look at my work, they can tell straight away it's mine."

Laurie has been showered with awards. One of them, the Alexander Graham Munro Travel Award, sent him to Iceland to further develop

his landscape work. In 2005, Laurie was elected "hanging convener," of the prestigious 146-year-old Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts, arguably the most venerated art institute in the country. In this role, he curates exhibitions of the best contemporary artists from throughout Great Britain, primarily focusing on works from Scotland.

In stark contrast to his renowned work, Laurie is himself reserved. He most enjoys what he calls "the quiet things," such as spending time with his family, searching for Scottish antiques, and listening to Gaelic music. He tries to set aside an hour or so each evening, usually after dinner, for a glass of his favorite single malt. "I like to get my people up to chat and have a Scotch. And I love The Glenlivet." From one Originator to another, we raise a glass to Simon Laurie.

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