



## **The Tweed Valley Weather Report**

Andrew Hmelnitsky

The Macnaughton Focus Gallery

Friday 23 June – Sunday 17 September 2017

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One year ago I set myself the task of painting the atmospheric conditions of the Tweed Valley from the back of my van, which I've converted into a mobile studio.

The works on exhibition are a selection from the 150 pictures I made. They are loose interpretations of the weather conditions and the landscape they illuminate. Don't view them so much as novels, for they are more like short stories, in some instances they are mere text messages; hastily painted impressions of the landscape and barometric pressure, almost scientific in their exploration, like a report of the weather conditions for 2016–2017.

Through a scorching summer I had hoped to find the opportunity to paint the drama of a fire but to no avail. Instead, Cyclone Debbie appeared on the synoptic chart and she affected us all. A Tweed Valley flood is part and parcel of life up here, but nobody escaped her thunder. I was drawn into the disaster and feel for all those that suffered in her wake. There was something dark and sinister about this flood and my paintings since have been imbued with a little more darkness.

On the one hand, this body of work is about my local environment, the landscape of the Tweed. On the other hand these paintings are about my struggle to exist.

Andrew Hmelnitsky

April, 2017

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### **Andrew Hmelnitsky**

*Plantation Farmhouse* ▪ 2016

oil on board ▪ 30.5 × 40.0cm