



CONTEMPORARY  
PRESS RELEASE

## Light Catching Fire

Sarah Butterfield

29th March - 11th April 2017

Monday - Saturday 11am - 6pm

D Contemporary Gallery, 23 Grafton Street,  
W1S 4EY

### OTHER EVENTS

Painting demonstration: *Colour Relationships*  
Thursday March 30th 12.30 - 1.30pm

Art Talk : *Science and my Painting*  
Thursday April 6th 1pm - 2pm

RSVP - [sok@strategyinternational.co.uk](mailto:sok@strategyinternational.co.uk)  
(Limited tickets for both events)

*Light Catching Fire* is an exhibition of paintings showcasing Sarah's fascination for patterns and colours as they are revealed in the natural world. This is Sarah's first show in London since exhibiting with the China National Academy of Art in 2016.

At the start of this exhibition you will see *Cosmos XVIII*. As Prof Brian Cox tells us, the physical laws of nature are the same out in the Solar System and beyond as they are here on Earth. Sarah exemplifies this by painting a picture in which you do not know if it is a distant cosmic event or a natural scene from here on Earth or even some industrial process. The Laws of Motion are the same in each case.

Other paintings represent, according to fellow figurative artist Peter Spens, "the fireworks of the close of day." This is shown also in her smaller paintings of sunrises and sunsets, many done on the spot at dawn and dusk. There are also paintings done "en plein air" capturing the artificial lights of London - a cafe, a tube station and a theatre.

The title 'Light Catching Fire' comes into play in different series of her paintings such as *Ocean's margins*, *Between the islands* and is also revealed in the paintings of the Thames in winter light. The rippling of the light on and beneath the water's surface suggests the magical sparks of the origin of life. Light and the shapes of sand beneath the water capture the movement of the waves. Caustics are the ever-moving, lightening-like flashes of sunlight on the sand beneath the shallow water. They are created by the dished lens shapes of the water's surface above. Caustics form some of the most intricate and ever-changing patterns in nature.

### About Sarah

Sarah Butterfield studied at The Ruskin School of Fine Art in Oxford, and won the Distinction for her year before qualifying as an architect in 1983. Sarah studied at Edinburgh and Bristol University and worked in Palo Alto, California. She exhibited with Agnew's Young Contemporaries. Sarah had solo exhibitions with Cadogan Contemporary, at Gallery 27 and the Albemarle Gallery. Frost and Reed gave her two exhibitions, one in 2011, followed by an exhibition of Sarah's Olympic Sports paintings in 2012. Sarah first exhibited in China in 2014 with a solo exhibition in Shanghai called *Light and Life*. This was followed by two solo exhibitions called *Visions of Paradise* held at The Cultural Palace of Nationalities in Beijing and then with The China National Academy of Art in Hangzhou in 2016.

Sarah Butterfield has a wealth of accomplishments in particular in 2006 she was commissioned as the Official Tour Artist with HRH Prince of Wales on the Royal Tour to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and India. An exhibition followed at the Indian High Commission in South Audley Street, London. HRH Prince of Wales has two of these works. In 2012 Sarah painted the *Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant* and HM The Queen has two of Sarah's Pageant paintings.

Sarah is married to the Rt Hon Lord David Willetts.



Evening in the Solent 5  
oil on canvas



Thames walk 3  
oil on canvas



Oceans margins: clouds rising  
oil on canvas



Cosmos XVIII  
oil on canvas

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