



# Life Beyond the Window

Presented works by Charmaine Chaudry

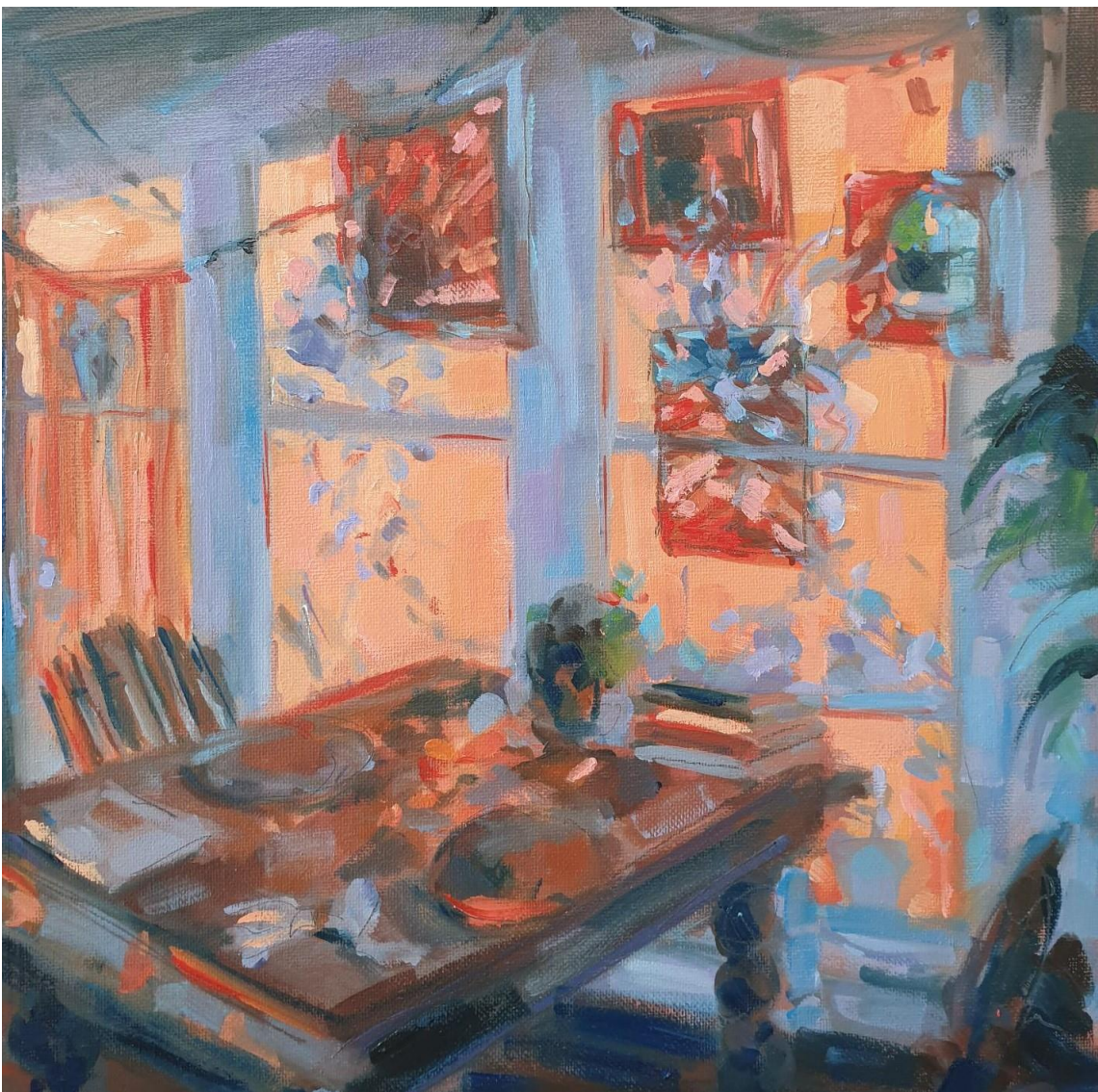
October 22 – March 23

In this series of work, I explore themes relating to family, identity and belonging, through the lens of looking in at life from outside or beyond refractions of light. The work aims to highlight the feeling of almost belonging in a place and with a group. This sentiment is often inspired in me when I think about my mixed heritage. The work in this brochure has helped me to create my own world in art form and to think through my conflicting feelings of semi-alienation from my ethnic identities, while remaining aware of all the love I feel from and towards others. Overall, this series is trying to capture my ambivalence towards the idea of home and my search for a wholesome feeling of it.

Images are taken from my own photography, memory, as well as photographs online (all creators have given permission to use images).

[SHOP NOW](#)





'Dancing Shadows' oil on canvas board 30x30cm 2022 £220

*'I am constantly chasing that cosy  
golden hour light and blissful  
human connection'*

Just as the sun is about to set, the painting captures the last light of the day, after having a meal with a friend. We see hanging plants and the window frame as shadows reflected on the wall, whilst the objects in frame catch the light. An otherwise melancholic and quiet scene, of the empty table and cold blue shadows, it is uplifted by the warmth of the last rays of light, a reminder of the pleasure of human connection and spending time with loved ones. As the title states, the shadows and light appear to be dancing, in their final moments before night time.

[SHOP NOW](#)

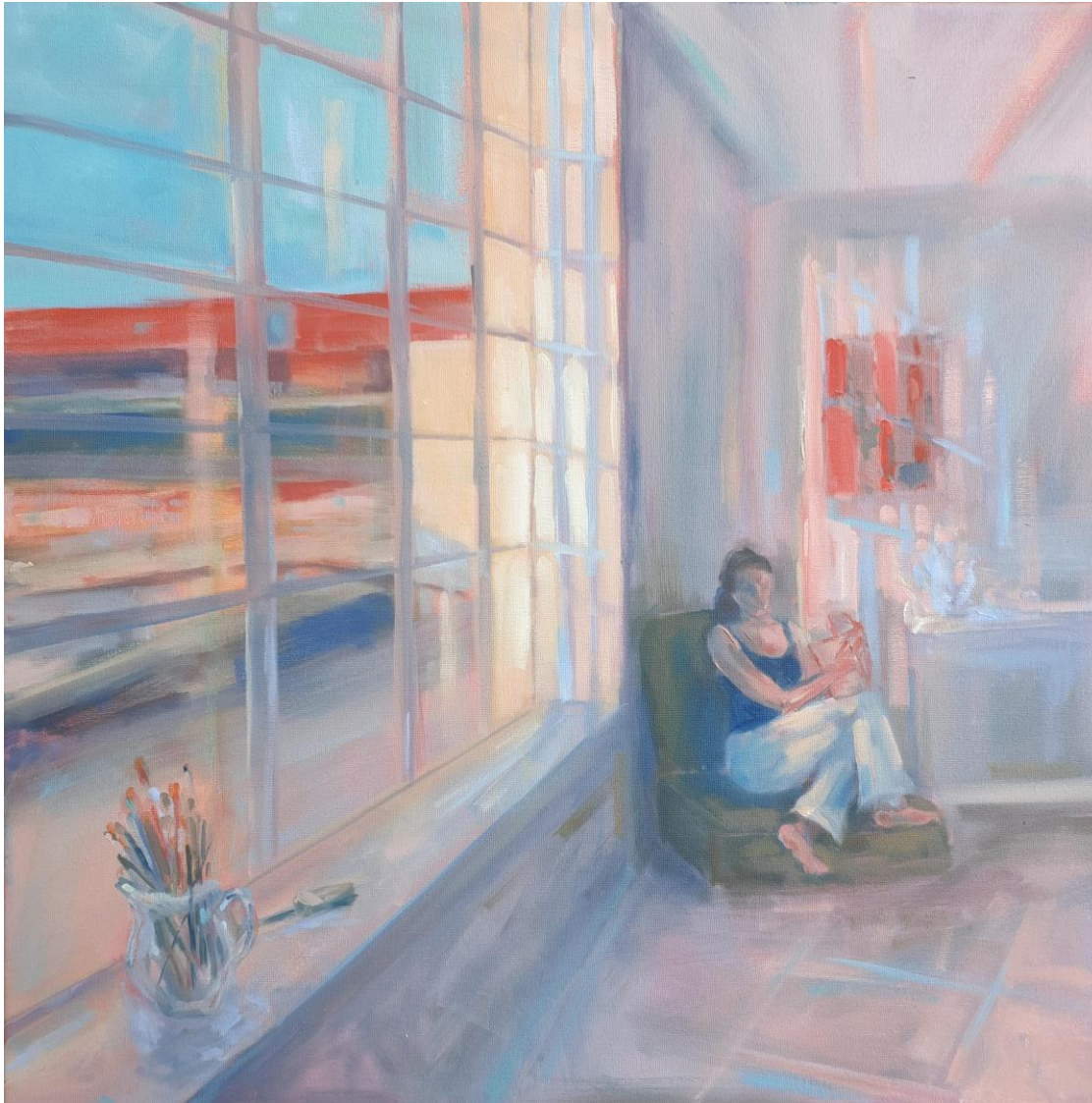




‘Dawn’ oil on canvas 80x60cm 2023 £510

This painting is in some ways an inversion of the title painting. Instead of looking in at someone else’s experience, we look out of a window on to a warm and inviting landscape. The outside world is hazy but warm and inviting while casting a warm glow on the homely surrounding. I have moved into 6 different “homes” since I left my parents’ for university and so I am often conscious that the four walls around us are not always the same as home. The red tulip symbolises the new start through the new life of spring. The collection of books symbolises the capacity to reflect my inner world in my belongings. In some ways this painting is reflective of alienation from home turned on its head: it is a romanticised and idealised feeling of homeliness both within and outside the home.

‘Studio Light’ oil on canvas 60x60cm 2022 £380

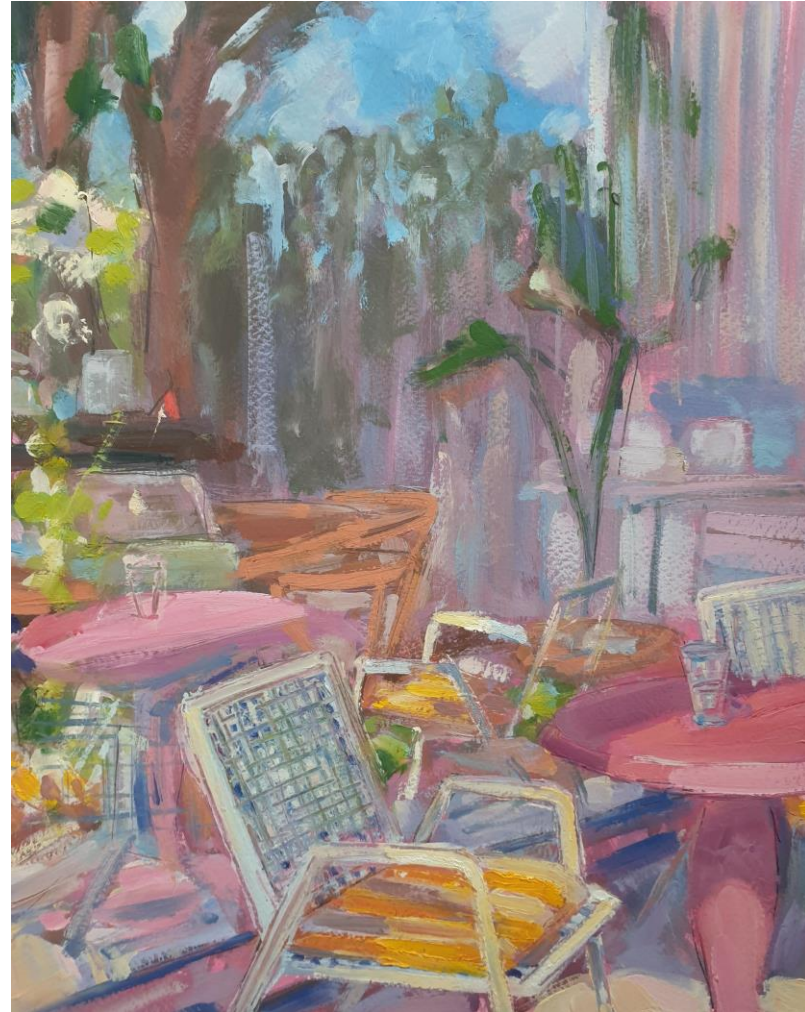


This self-portrait is situated in my art studio, as the morning sun moves its way into the room. This is the space where I spend most of my alone time, and so it has become a space not just for my creative work but also for my self-reflection. This painting holds in tension some of the contradictory feelings that arise when you are alone in space for a significant amount of time. The reflections from the window panes on the wall behind could create an almost prison-like grill shape. However, the position of the subject and the warmth of the light create a feeling of safety, and the reflection gives the feeling of a self-contained, cocooned space. The point of view is detached. As the subject and painter, I am figuratively examining myself from the outside. However, the calm balance of the subject creates a feeling of intimacy and oneness: she is taking her own space, retreating into the calm of her own mind and seemingly happy with that.



'Lemonade on the Terrace' oil on paper 32x24cm 2023 £200

This fun summery painting explores the idea of looking in to someone's home and partially seeing. To me this painting feels as though I am glancing into someone's garden and through into their home. The composition of the piece and colour palette are vibrant, and moving. This movement creates only the impression of detail, a laptop, a plant, a bright cushion. But it is hard to distinguish between what is inside and what is a reflection. The viewer feels drawn in to this painting, perhaps picking out details they did not see at first, really forcing them to observe what is there. The scene creates an almost Alice in Wonderland effect, whereby nothing is quite real, everything is exaggerated in a dreamlike fashion. Yet, despite its ethereal nature, the imaginative process helps us to learn about ourselves.



*'the observer feels distant from the subject and this is emphasised through refractions of light caused by windows or obstacles'*



'Through my Sister's Window' oil on canvas board 25.5x30.5cm 2022 £170

This small window scene is set in my sister's home in the Staffordshire countryside. It is a cold autumn morning, before anyone else is awake, and as the golden sun captures the frame of the window. This piece captures that fleeting moment when all of life feels still, calm, and almost zen. This is a feeling that, I find, can only be created in the countryside, with familiar noises and open spaces. There is no clear observer or observed. Life may be going on, but it feels as though it has nothing to do with whoever is looking through this window. I feel at home here, emphasised by the warm colours and inviting space.





‘Golden Hour’ oil on canvas 40x50cm 2022 £350

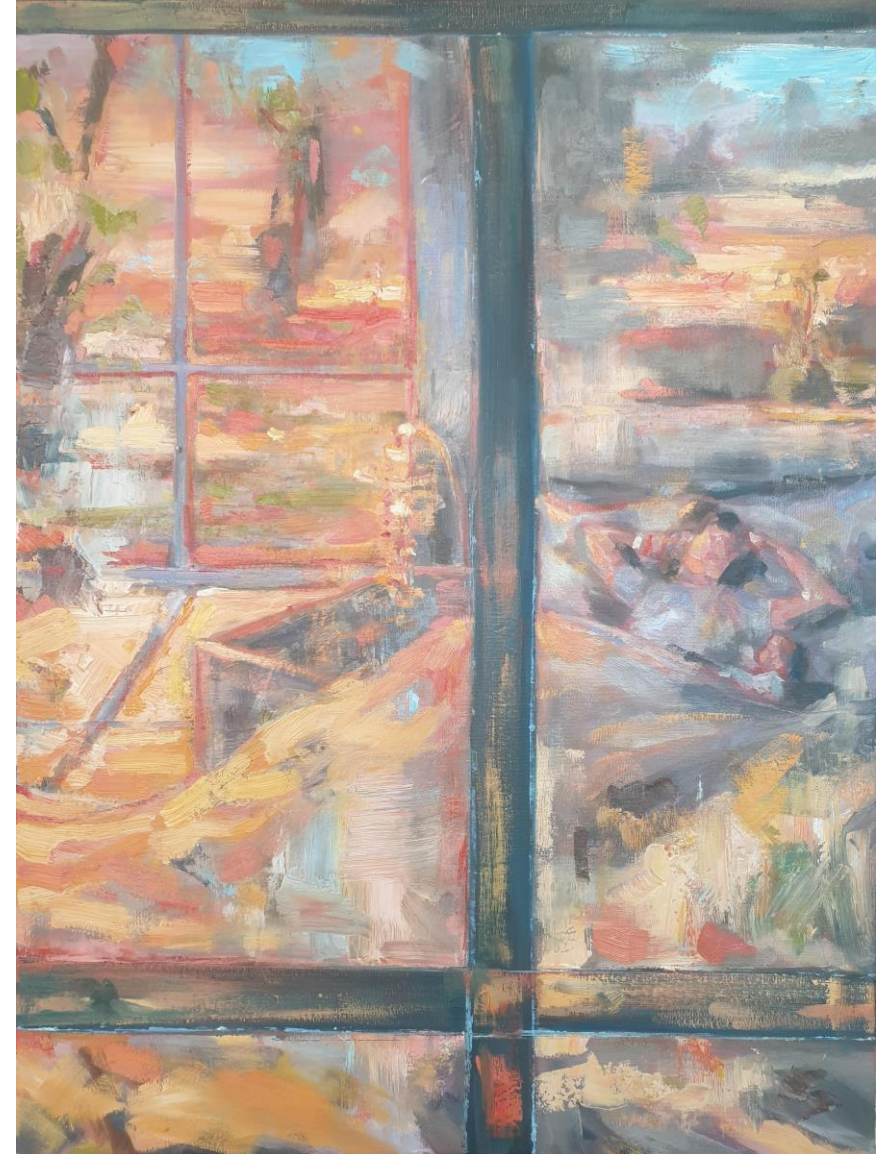
As the sun sets, it casts shadows across the room, giving the space depth and movement. Reflections of light catch the window facing the viewer and the pane of glass in the foreground. The scene feels nostalgic. The terracotta and white colouring, so removed from the usual British home, creates a feeling of foreignness. The open doors, the white furniture and the shadows of house plants hint at the cool breeze on a balmy evening. We are transported to idealized summer holidays in the Mediterranean or by the sea. It evokes the idea of a memory, created and then perhaps romanticised from childhood. The painting feels nostalgic, both real and imagined, detached from reality but close to home.



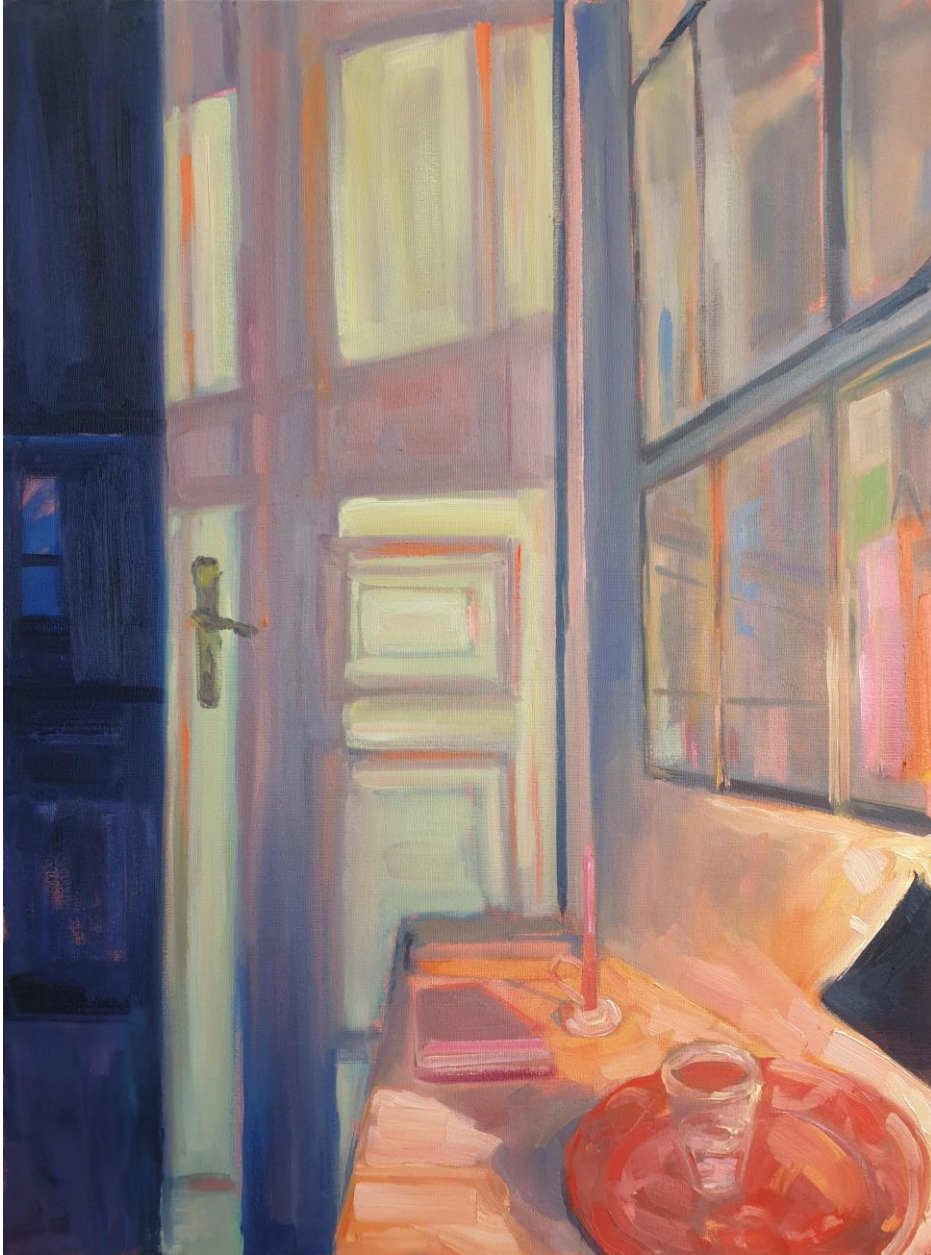
‘First Night Home’ oil on canvas 80x60cm 2023 £550

Inspired by my oldest sister, the painting captures a new mother and baby on their first night home together from hospital. We feel confused in time, it is not obvious whether it is sunrise or sunset, nor is it clear what surface is reflecting what, as we look through a window into a room with a window.

We are meant to feel a sense of disorientation but pure bliss. This is what I imagine is experienced by some new mums. The viewers perspective is that of an outsider looking in, imagining the warmth of love between mother and child. The window creates the distance that my limited perspective on motherhood can provide as I, not being a mother myself, can only glimpse my sister’s patience, warmth and pride towards her daughter, my niece.



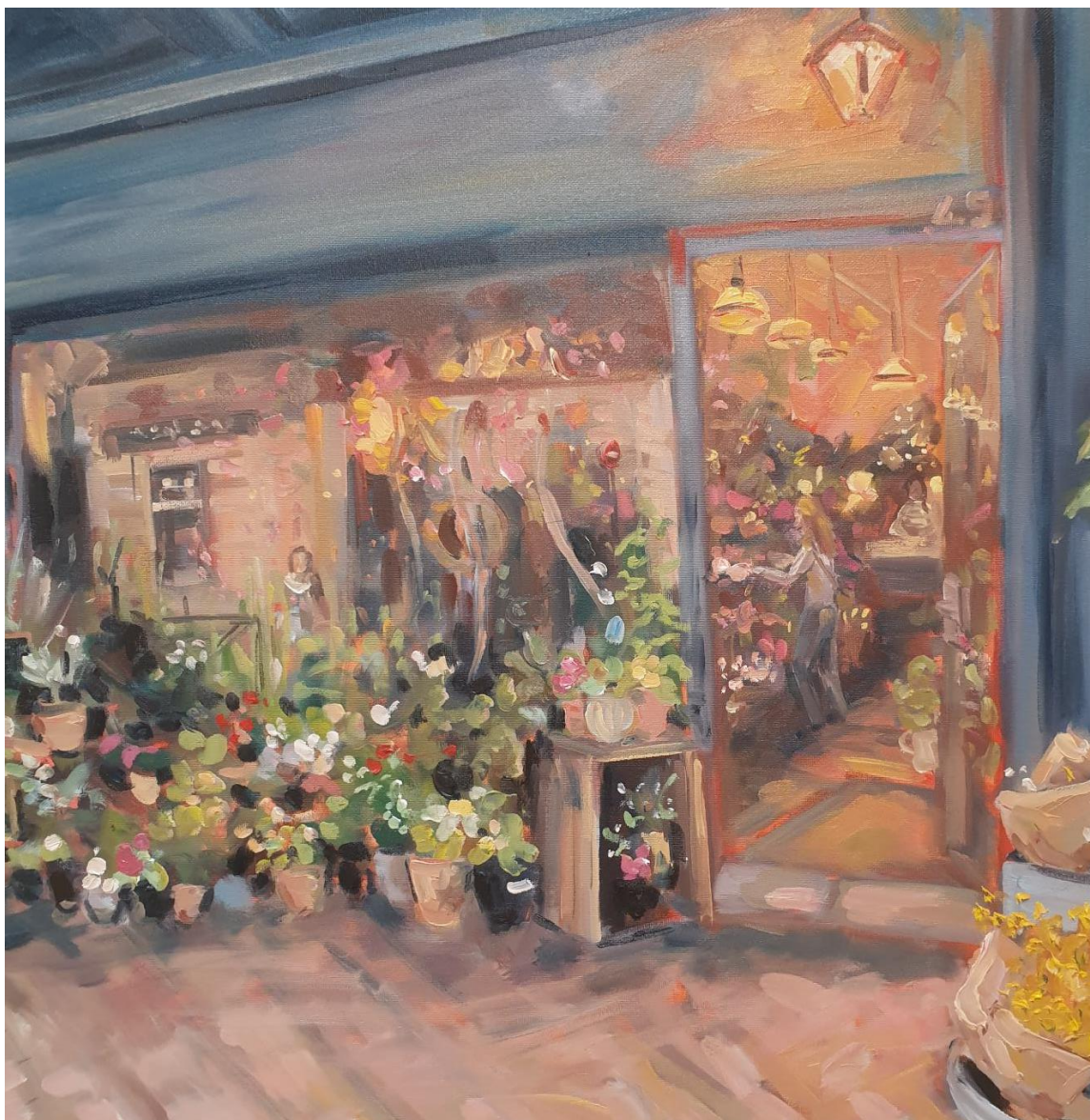




‘Bedtime Reading’ oil on canvas 60x80cm 2023 £530

This large painting depicts the viewer in bed reading before going to sleep. The moments just before sleep are among the most reflective and intimate that we have, letting our minds wander into dream-like states and escaping reality. The angle of the scene really pulls the viewer in as if in the scene themselves. Harsh shadows from the window behind us fall on to the open door. In the background you can just make out the moonlight reflected in a mirror. The light this time is artificial from the lamp partially in frame in the bottom right corner. This super subjective viewpoint makes us feel present, whilst also noticing small details that pull us out of the moment and again, forces us to look for what is beyond the scene.





The Florist oil on canvas 60x60cm 2023 £450

The figure of the flaneur, someone who wanders the streets of a city, totally anonymous, daydreaming about others' lives, is something that really interests me and is also present in my 'Lemonade on the Terrace' painting. Having lived in London and now Liverpool, I find the anonymity city life both comforting and alienating. In this painting, we see a florist shop, with two figures inside. My own reflection is in the window, as I observe the shop from the outside. I wanted to create a painting that explores this idea of observing as a complete stranger, being anonymous and imagining the lives of those that are being observed.





'House on the Canal' oil on canvas 80x60cm 2022 £650

The largest painting from the series, this painting is inspired by a house I used to often walk past when I lived in London. I would walk to and from Victoria Park and always noticed it and how beautifully the warm light from inside reflected on to the water.

I have imagined my own family members in the house; mother and aunty chatting at the dining table, sister with her baby, and my other sister on the sofa reading. It shows the beautiful mix of ethnicities and cultures within my family. These gatherings remain all too infrequent, with the nature of living far from each other. It plays with ideas of seeing and being seen and what this says about our relationship to really knowing others. While emphasising this distance between myself and my family, the painting however does not make the viewer feel lonely or isolated. Rather, I am observing and searching for that complete feeling of home and belonging.

*'I am observing  
and searching for  
that complete  
feeling of home  
and belonging'*

[SHOP NOW](#)





# Thank you for reading!

This project has been a joy to create. It has helped me understand and learn about myself, diving into some of my more personal experiences. I find it difficult to express myself in words, or even understand why I paint what I paint. So I have found the experience of questioning myself and my work extremely rewarding (although sometimes exhausting!).

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this brochure of my work. I really hope you have taken something from it and something has resonated with you.



All the paintings & prints enclosed in this brochure will become available to the public on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

As a thank you for signing up to my newsletter, I am giving you exclusive early access over the weekend.

As well as this, I have given you an exclusive discount on these paintings in my Life Beyond the Window series. Just enter BEYONDWINDOWS under 'Enter promo code' at checkout to get 10% taken off!

Please follow this link to be taken directly to the paintings.

[find Life Beyond the Window on my website here](#)

[find Limited Edition Prints here](#)

For anyone wanting to view any paintings in person, please get in touch with me at [charmaine chaudry designs@outlook.com](mailto:charmaine chaudry designs@outlook.com) to organise a studio visit.

Thank you for taking the time to read and I hope you enjoy my new paintings.

Charmaine x