An abstract painting by Wilhelmina Barns-Graham. The composition is dominated by a large, vibrant blue area in the lower half, which transitions into a bright yellow and orange area in the upper half. A dark, textured shape, possibly a shadow or a dark object, is visible in the upper left quadrant. The brushwork is visible, giving the painting a sense of movement and texture. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and color contrast.

WILHELMINA BARNS-GRAHAM

A New Dynamic: The late works 1996-2003

All works may be viewed online at www.waterhousedodd.com
and are available for purchase on receipt of this catalogue.

Waterhouse & Dodd represent the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust

All artworks illustrated in this catalogue are sourced directly from the Trust.

Front cover (detail):

Untitled (July)

Painted in 2000

Acrylic on paper / 58 x 76 cm

WILHELMINA BARNS-GRAHAM

A New Dynamic: The late works 1996-2003

18th January - 12th February 2021

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WBG at work in her St Ives studio.
Photo: Lesley Donald.

Foreword:

Wilhelmina Barns-Graham's late abstract paintings represent one of the high points of her long and varied career. As she worked through her 80s, her paintings became bolder, brighter and more immediate. These works were executed in acrylic. The quick drying medium allowed the artist to rapidly overlay largely unmodulated and contrasting colours. While there is a sense of Barns-Graham 'letting rip' - as described in Virginia Button's recent book on the artist - the compositions were still rooted in her systemic experimentation of the 70s and 80s.

Despite her advancing age and her past preference for reduced scale, Barns-Graham's late works are often relatively large. This allows the viewer a more immersive experience, even with the works on paper. Yet there is delicacy and nuance to the work; the paintings are hardly a gestural free-for-all. Nor are the colour combinations entirely random or based solely of aesthetic choices. They are in no small part related to her Synaesthesia condition in which colours are associated to people, places, numbers and letters.

For a greater understanding of Barns-Graham's late works I recommend Virginia Button's excellent book on the artist published by Sansom this year, and Lynne Green's authoritative monograph published by Lund Humphries (2nd edition in 2012). Further essays and information can be found at www.barns-grahamtrust.org.uk.

Jamie Anderson

Untitled, 32/00

Painted in 2000

Acrylic on paper / 57 x 75.5 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT960



Gust 2

Painted in 2003

Acrylic on canvas / 75.5 x 101 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT1023



Untitled (April)

Painted in 2002

Acrylic on paper / 40 x 49.5 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT1162



Untitled (July)

Painted in 2000

Acrylic on paper / 58 x 76 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT1299



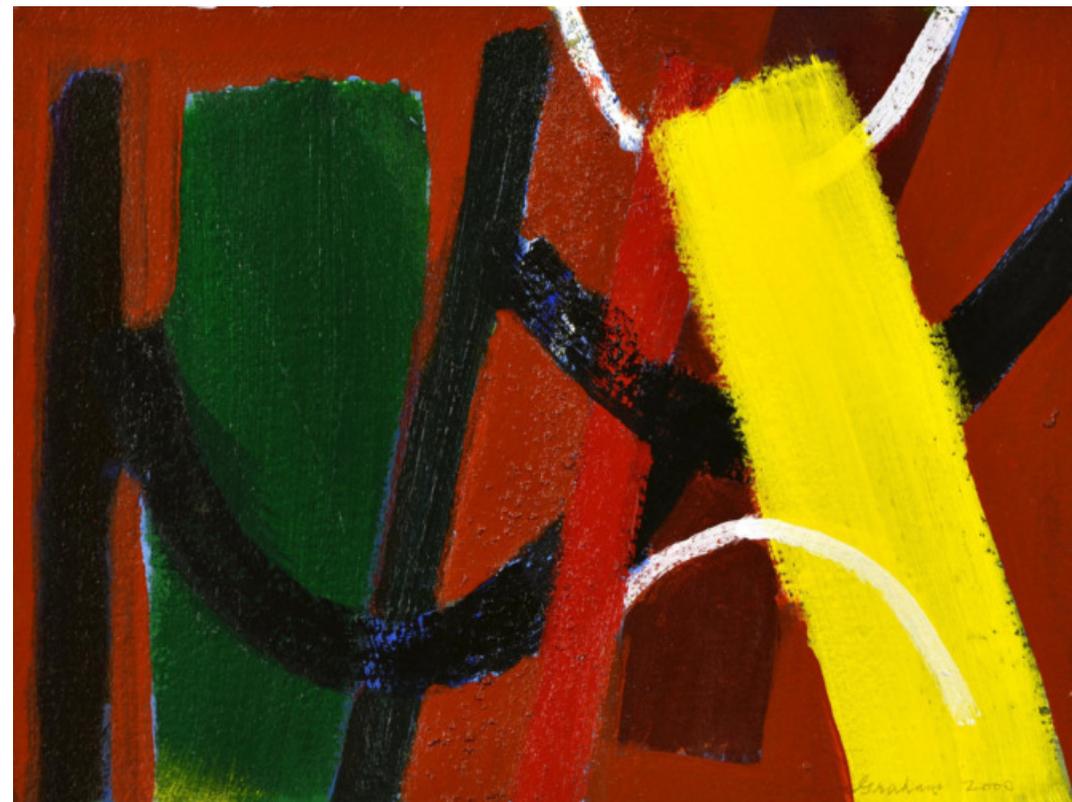
Untitled

Painted in 2000

Acrylic on paper / 29 x 39 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT2358



Untitled

Painted in 2001

Acrylic on paper / 31.5 x 40 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT2944



Enter Red on Blue and Green

Painted in 2003

Acrylic on paper / 25.5 x 26 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT3357



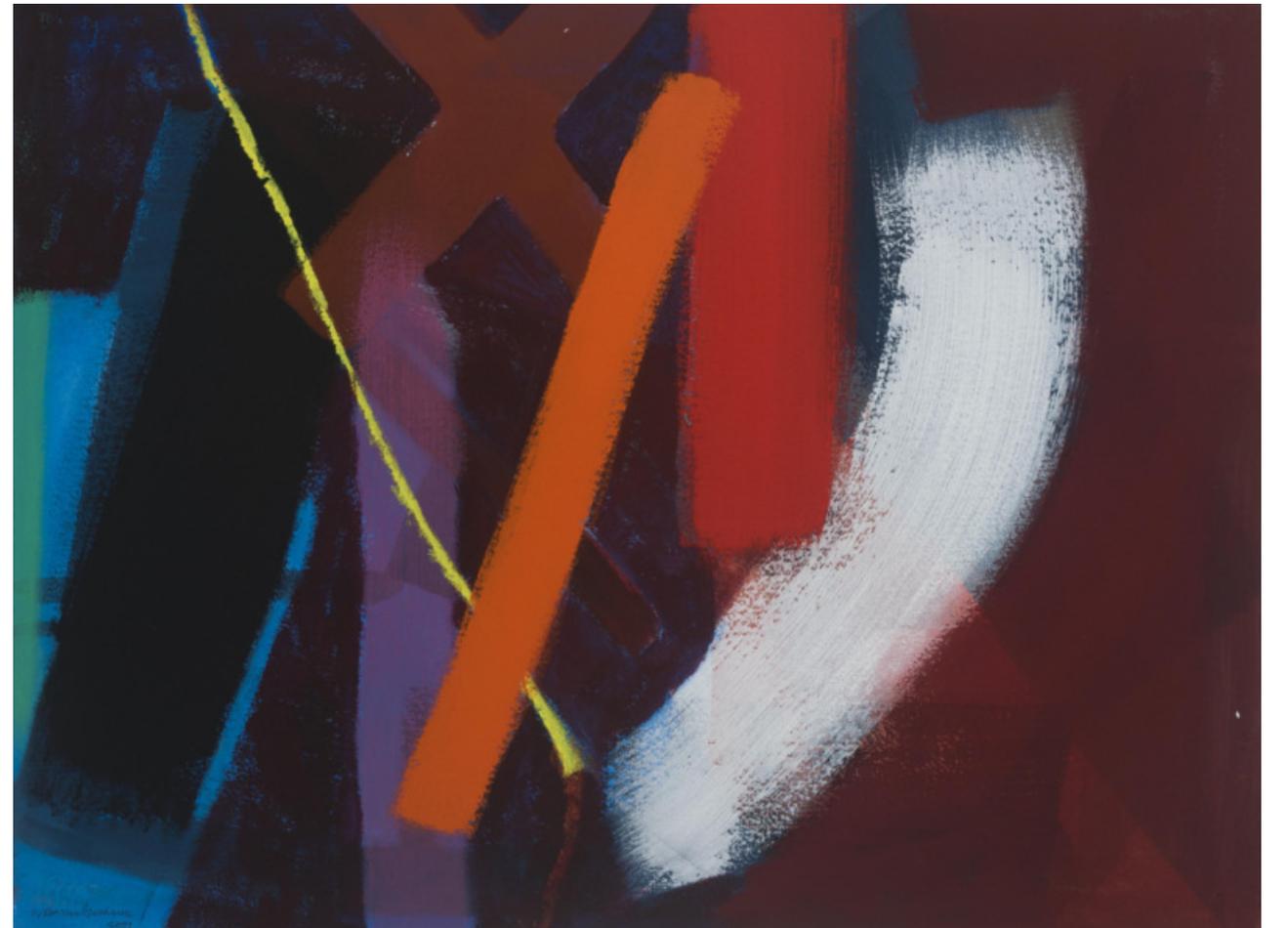
Big Day

Painted in 2001

Acrylic on paper / 57 x 75.5 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT3186



Night Walk Porthmeor No. 2

Painted in 1996

Acrylic on paper / 57 x 76 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number: BGT984



Scorpio Series 2 No.53

Painted in 1996-97

Acrylic on paper / 56.5 x 76 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number: BGT3074



Untitled (Scorpio Series)

Painted in 2002

Acrylic on paper / 57 x 76 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT3194



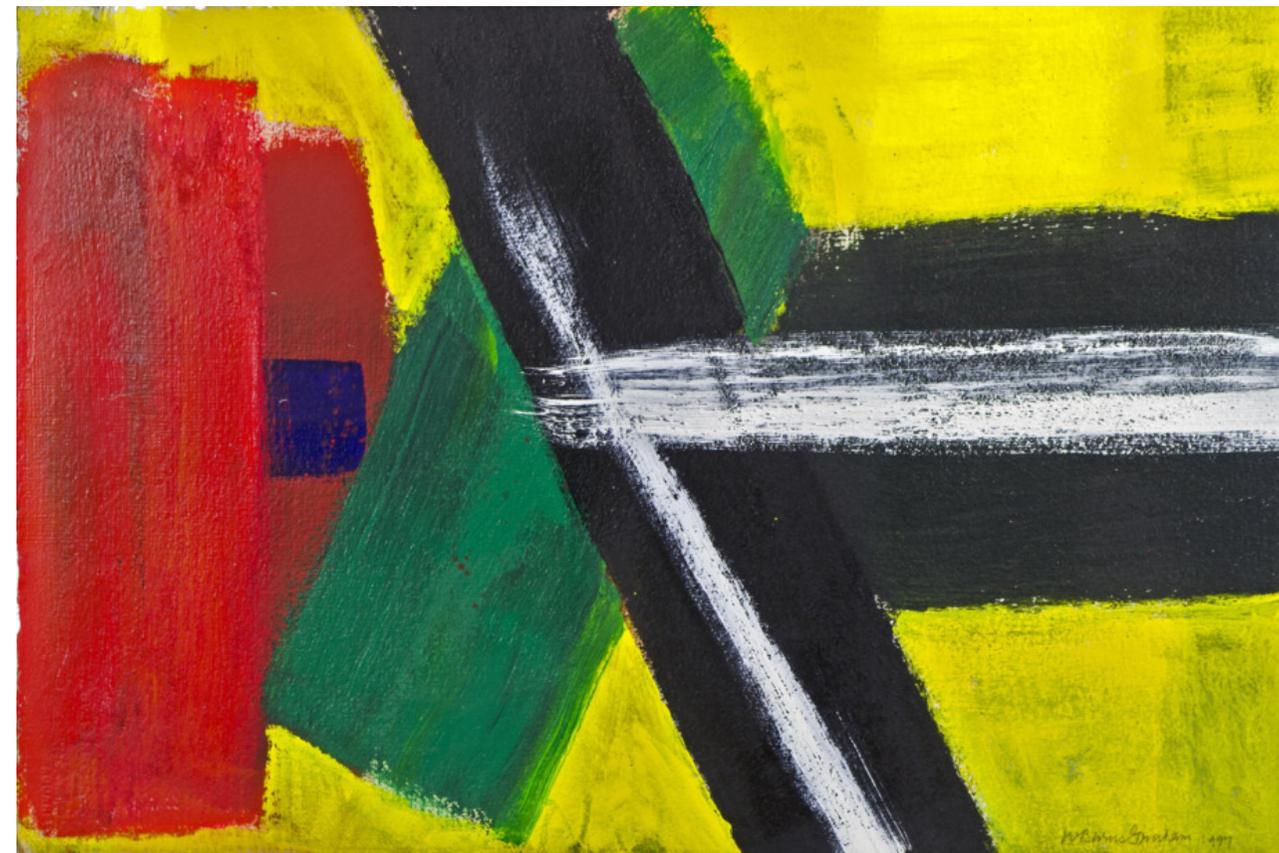
Scorpio Series 3 (PA2)

Painted in 1997

Acrylic on paper / 38 x 57 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT3194





Millennium Series No.16

Painted in 2000

Screen Print and Mixed Media / 24 x 31 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT6068



Millennium Series No.21

Painted in 2000

Screen Print and Mixed Media / 24 x 31 cm

Signed & dated

The artwork is recorded in the Barns-Graham Trust archive under number BGT6071

WILHELMINA BARNS-GRAHAM

Brief Chronology

1912	Born 8 June, St Andrews, Fife
1932-37	Edinburgh College of Art, Diploma course (Painting) DAE
1940	Moved to Cornwall. Rented No. 3 Porthmeor Studios
1942	Became member of Newlyn Society of Artists and St Ives Society of Artists
1945	Moved into No. 1 Porthmeor Studios
1946	First meetings of Crypt Group in her studio
1949	Worked on glacier drawings and gouaches in Switzerland Founder member of the Penwith Society of Arts Resigned from the St Ives Society of Artists
1951	Worked in Italy and Scilly Isles
1954	Worked in Tuscany
1955	Worked in Tuscany, Calabria and Sicily Visited Paris - met Poliakoff, Istrati and Michel Seuphor, visited studios of Brancusi, Arp, Giacometti and Pevsner
1956-57	On staff of Leeds School of Art
1958	Worked in France, Spain and the Balearics
1960	Inherited Balmungo estate, near St Andrews
1966	Visit to Amsterdam, The Hague, Delft and Rotterdam
1984-85	Working in Orkney
1989-90	Working in Lanzarote
1991-92	Working in Lanzarote
1992	Received Honorary Doctorate, University of St Andrews
1987	Establishes Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust
1999	Elected Honorary Member RSA and RSW
2000	Received Honorary Doctorate, University of Plymouth
2001	Awarded CBE Awarded Honorary Doctorate, University of Exeter
2003	Awarded Honorary Doctorate, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh
2004	Died 26 January, St Andrews

Solo Exhibitions (in her lifetime)

1947/49/54	Downing Gallery, St Ives, Cornwall
1949/52	Redfern Gallery, London
1951	St Ives Festival
1954	Roland, Browse and Delbanco, London
1956/59/60/81	Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
1957	City Art Gallery, Wakefield
1968	Richard Demarco Gallery, Edinburgh
1971	Marjorie Parr Gallery, London
1976	Wills Lane Gallery, St Ives
1978	The New Art Centre, London
1982	The Crawford Centre, St Andrews
1984	The Pier Arts Centre, Orkney
1989	Scottish Gallery, London
1989-90	<i>W. Barns-Graham Retrospective 1940 - 1989</i> , touring: Newlyn Art Gallery; City Art Centre, Edinburgh; Perth Museum and Art Gallery; Crawford Art Centre, St Andrews; Maclaurin Art Gallery, Ayr
1992	<i>W. Barns-Graham Drawings</i> , Crawford Art Centre, St Andrews and The Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro
1992-3	<i>W. Barns-Graham at 80</i> , William Jackson Gallery, London touring to Lillie Art Gallery, Milngavie; Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal; Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter; Dundee Art Gallery & Museum; Wakefield Art Gallery
1995/97/99/02	Art First, London
1996-7	The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
1999-2000	<i>Wilhelmina Barns-Graham: An Enduring Image</i> , Tate Gallery St Ives
2001	The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
2002-04	<i>W. Barns-Graham: Painting as Celebration</i> , Crawford Art Centre, St Andrews, travelling to Aberdeen Art Gallery; Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro; Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield; City Art Gallery and Museum, York; Peter Scott Gallery, Lancaster University; Ferens Art Gallery, Kingston upon Hull; Lillie Art Gallery, Milngavie; Hawick Museum

Selected Group Exhibitions (in her lifetime)

1935 - 43*	Society of Scottish Artists, Edinburgh
1941/44/86/88	Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
1942 - 99*	Newlyn Society of Artists
1942 - 49*	St Ives Society of Artists
1945 - 46	<i>St Ives Society of Artists</i> , travelling exhibition in UK and South Africa
1946	<i>Living Artists</i> , National Gallery of Scotland
1947/48	Crypt Group, St Ives
1949 - 99*	Penwith Society of Arts, St Ives
1951	<i>Danish, British and American Abstract Artists</i> , Riverside Museum, New York
1953	<i>International watercolour exhibition</i> , Brooklyn Museum, New York
1954	<i>British Painting and Sculpture</i> , Whitechapel Art Gallery, London <i>Art from the South West</i> , Arts Council touring exhibition
1955	<i>Seven Scottish Artists</i> , Scottish Arts Council touring exhibition Annual exhibition, City Art Gallery, Bradford <i>Abstract Art 2</i> , Milan (invited artist)
1960	<i>Painters from Cornwall</i> , Plymouth City Art Gallery <i>Contemporary Scottish Artists</i> , Scottish Arts Council touring exhibition in Canada <i>International exhibition of works in gouache</i> , New York <i>British Watercolours</i> , Waddington Gallery, London (tour to Sweden)
1977	<i>British Artists of the 60s</i> , The Tate Gallery, London
1981/83	<i>Contemporary Art from Scotland</i> , The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh (SAC tour)
1982	<i>Art from Cornwall</i> , Galerie Artica, Cuxhaven
1984	<i>Homage to Herbert Read</i> , University of Kent, Canterbury
1985	<i>St Ives 1939-64</i> , The Tate Gallery, London
1986	<i>Forty years of Modern Art</i> , The Tate Gallery, London
1988	<i>The Experience of Landscape</i> , Arts Council touring exhibition
1989/90	<i>Scottish Art since 1900</i> , Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh and tour to Barbican Art Gallery, London
1992	<i>New Beginnings, Postwar British Art</i> , Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art
1995	<i>Porthmeor Beach: A Century of Images</i> , Tate St Ives <i>William Gear Friends Past & Present</i> , Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
1998-2004*	Royal Scottish Academy (RSA), Edinburgh
1998-2004*	Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour (RSW), Edinburgh

Later Exhibitions (Public Galleries)

2005	<i>Wilhelmina Barns-Graham: Movement and Light Imag(in)ing Time</i> , Tate St Ives
2007	<i>Elemental Energies: the Art of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham</i> , Trinity Hall, Cambridge <i>A Different Way of Working'</i> , Gateway Gallery, University of St Andrews <i>Evolution: the Work of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham</i> , Sherborne House, Sherborne
2009-12	<i>A Discipline of the Mind – The Drawings of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham</i> , Pier Arts Centre, Stromness, Orkney, and tour to Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, University of Leeds; Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery; Burton Art Gallery and Museum, Bideford, North Devon; Perth Art Gallery & Museum
2012-13	<i>Wilhelmina Barns-Graham: a Scottish artist in St Ives</i> , Fleming Collection, London and City Art Centre Edinburgh <i>A Different Way of Working. The Prints of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham</i> , Inverness Museum & Art Gallery and tour to St Fergus Gallery, Wick; Iona Gallery, Kingussie; Gracefield Art Centre, Dumfries: Dick Institute, Kilmarnock
2015-16	<i>The Prints of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham</i> , Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art
2016	<i>Wilhelmina Barns-Graham: a Scottish artist in St Ives</i> , Penlee House Art Gallery, Penzance
2016-17	<i>A Different Way of Working: The Prints of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham</i> , Beverley Art Gallery, North Yorkshire; Burton Art Gallery and Museum, Bideford
2018	<i>Wilhelmina Barns-Graham - Sea, Rock, Earth and Ice</i> , Jerwood Gallery, Hastings, touring to Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield

* Indicates consecutive annual exhibitions

Exhibitions at Waterhouse & Dodd

2017	<i>Wilhelmina Barns-Graham (a survey exhibition)</i> , Waterhouse & Dodd, London
2018	<i>Shared History: The art of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, George Dannatt and John Wells</i> , Waterhouse & Dodd, London
2020	<i>Collages: 1982-1987</i> , Waterhouse & Dodd (online)

Waterhouse & Dodd have exhibited Barns-Graham's art at the following fairs: Art Miami, British Art Fair, London Art Fair. Expo Chicago, TEFAF Maastricht, Masterpiece London, Palm Beach Contemporary, Wynwood Art Fair (Miami).



WBG Portrait, 1990s.
Photographed in the studio set against an unfinished work on canvas.
Photo: Rowan James.