



May's Barn
STUDIO CATALOGUE
2010



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Oil Paintings by Charles Burns, 2008 - 2009



Cover: "Anthony from the back" 2009, oil on paper, 24 x 18 cm

This page: "Billie on White cloth" 2009, oil on paper, 24 x 18 cm

Facing page: "Sarah on White cloth" 2009, oil on paper, 24 x 18 cm

OIL SKETCHES

I've been concentrating on a series of fairly quick oil studies. These are all oil on paper, with the paint thinly applied and overdrawn with soft graphite, worked directly into the wet oil. I find this lends itself a very immediate and tactile method of drawing the figure, incorporating as it does a generous measure of random and accidental marks. For this reason my working method, as ever, has been to produce large numbers of pictures quite quickly, only a small proportion of which are chosen to exhibit.

Charles Burns, Autumn 2009





MINIATURE SCALE

A feature of these works is that they are very small, in fact these are some of the smallest paintings I've ever produced (with the exception of silhouettes). In part this is to compensate for the difficulties of working in oil in a period of minutes rather than hours or days. In some cases the pictures are small enough to qualify as true miniature scale portraits.

As so often in my figure drawing those which seem to work best are those in which the pencil has followed the lines of cloth and drapery surrounding the model. This lends both context and narrative to the figure itself, and many of the titles I use reflect this.



Above: "John on Blue Cloth" 2009, oil on paper, 18 x 24 cm

Left, top: "Billie in Red silhouette" 2009, oil on paper, 18 x 12 cm

Left, bottom: "Billie in Profile" 2009, oil on paper, 18 x 12 cm



THE FUTURE

Plans for future with this technique include creating actual portraits, which I have not done for many years. Perhaps miniatures? I would also like to take the working method out of the studio and re-discover some of the landscapes/cityscapes I was working with in the early 1990's.



Above: "Jenny in Red & Green" 2009, oil on paper, 18 x 12 cm

Left, top: "Antonia in Orange" 2009, oil on paper, 18 x 12 cm

Left, bottom: "Sarah on Green Cloth" 2008, oil on paper, 18 x 24 cm



*Above: "Anthony on Green & Blue" 2008
Oil on paper, 18 x 24 cm*

*Left: "Hugh in Red silhouette" 2009
Oil on paper, 18 x 12 cm*



Studio visits

The pictures illustrated are a small selection of those produced during 2009. I always welcome visits from those who may be interested in my work. Please get in touch to arrange an appointment.

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