

FRED LEVINE

Peter Matthews
Windward

7 March until April 18, 2026

Fred Levine. Bruton



Windward

The side facing the wind, crucial for determining orientation.

Fred Levine is delighted to present, *Windward*, an upcoming solo exhibition with artist Peter Matthews in Bruton, Somerset.

The paintings and drawings in this exhibition began their life on a remote and windswept beach covered in a salty fog from the Pacific each morning and late afternoon, in the northern reaches of Hokkaido island in Japan in the late spring of last year, from there for another several months south to the tropical island of Hainan in southern China.

Travelling alone and working in solitude in nature, these paintings and drawings continue the artist's poetic and personal search for experiences of being in the sublime where the work emerges from time spent straddling silence, moments of being in suspended reverie: immersion in the ocean, stargazing, hiking, animal tracking, foraging, and forming intimate relationships with landscape. These methods extend a long trajectory of working in remote environments, shaped by previous periods in Peru, Chile, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, England, Iceland, and beyond.

Although painted directly along coasts, hinterlands, and intertidal margins, or drawn while rock-hopping through surf and dense fog along the Pacific, the works are equally informed by a wide conceptual field. Matthews draws from *mono no aware*, the Japanese awareness of impermanence; *wabi-sabi* aesthetics; cosmology; ecology; agriculture; shelter-making; mapping and cartography; maritime history; and material practices such as papermaking and carpentry repair.

Working on unstretched canvases packed into a backpack, the paintings often function as makeshift shelter during travel and passage. Their surfaces record a lived, generative process: paintings begin in the landscape, folded, carried, and reopened thousands of miles away, pausing and resuming in different climates and states of mind. Through this intense and personal odyssey, Matthews refines a visual language shaped by exhaustion, insomnia, lucidity, mindfulness, and moments of spiritual ex-stasis. The work exists deliberately at a distance from technological mediation, grounded instead in embodied experience and attentiveness to a rapidly changing world.

Though created entirely outdoors, the paintings seem to hover in an ambiguous temporal space, closer to memory than to the present. They evoke a past that feels within reach yet intangible, sensed, heard, and seen, but emotionally distant. In *Windward*, the viewer encounters the works as both documents of a

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physical journey and meditations on absence, impermanence, and the fragile intimacy between human presence and landscape.

About the artist

Peter Matthews was born in Derby, England in 1978 and grew up in the East Midlands. He studied his BA Hons and MA in Fine Art at the Nottingham Trent University.

His works have been shown extensively around the world in galleries and institutions such as the Drawing Center, New York; Mendes Wood DM, Sao Paulo; James Cohan Gallery, New York; the Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London; the Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea; Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain; Messums London; the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool and the North Carolina Museum of Art amongst others. Matthews is a recipient of grants from the Arts Council of England, is a Fellow of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, the Daiwa Foundation and also a major grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation in New York. He has been awarded the Hugh Casson Drawing Prize from the Royal Academy of Arts on two occasions.

His work was recently included in the exhibition Rolling, Action, Paint work at the Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Oslo, Norway and also the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize which toured various institutions the UK.