



JASON HICKLIN

DARK RIVER

To the Source of the Thames

Eames Fine Art



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September - October 2026

Eames Fine Art Gallery
58 Bermondsey Street
London
SE1 3UD

www.eamesfineart.com

Cover image: The Thames, Buscot

INTRODUCTION

We appear to be at the close of a fascinating chapter in the career of this most compelling of artists. *Dark River* is the fourth and final instalment of Jason Hicklin's extraordinary seven-year engagement with the Thames. Yet to describe it simply as the completion of a journey from estuary to source would impose an order that was never there. Jason has not approached the river as a cartographer. The river has supplied the course, but not the itinerary. That has emerged through walking, looking, returning and discovery.

The project began in 2019 with Jason returning to the river he had first walked and drawn as a young art-school graduate nearly thirty years earlier. From there came renewed encounters with the city, transformed by season, shifting perspective and an increasingly obsessive preoccupation with light. Then came the journey downstream towards Woolwich, the Hoo Peninsula and the London Stone, where the Thames begins to relinquish the city and open towards the sea. Jason has said that he did not imagine this part of the project ending at the London Stone; the place revealed itself as a natural destination. *Dark River* follows the same instinctive logic. Fourteen walks from Greenwich to Thames Head take him in the opposite direction, upstream and inland into the heart of England, until the great river of bridges, industry, skyscrapers and estuarine expanses contracts towards something extraordinarily modest in the low hills of Gloucestershire.

Only now can we see the shape of the whole. But this is not topography assembled mile by mile, but an odyssey of departures and returns, reversals and repetitions, in which one encounter has provoked the next. These encounters have all been conducted on foot and walking is fundamental to Jason's way of knowing a place. The river bends, alters his position and continually reorganises the landscape around him. Buildings appear to move; distances jar and reveal themselves afresh, familiar views become strange. 'The whole perspective of the city is altered just by walking it,' Jason has observed. The river is therefore more than subject: it is an active protagonist, determining where the artist stands in order to look.

And what Jason looks for, unerringly, is light. In the second show in this sequence Cometh Light (2023) Jason wanted illumination to almost obliterate the buildings along the riverside. By Riparius in 2024, sunlight reflected from the widening Thames led him to think of the river as a 'container of light', and in his etchings sky and water continually exchanged identities. Dark River gathers these concerns without forcing them into a neat conclusion. Instead, it gives form to the preceding seven years. The final destination is, paradoxically, a beginning: an epic artistic journey arriving at the source. Jason has not simply completed the river; he has revealed the true scale of the creative milestone the river has made possible.

What began as a personal return to the Thames of Jason's youth has expanded into a defining body of work about movement, memory, atmosphere and the unstable act of seeing. Transforming that visceral experience into image has tested Jason's capabilities as an etcher to new limits and, in the opinion of this viewer at least, driven him towards a career-defining achievement.

Vincent Eames, 2026

Dark River is the fourth body of work produced by walking on the bank of the Thames over the last seven years.

From the estuary and the North Sea to its source in the low hills of Gloucestershire, a distance of 232 miles.

Dark River is the result of fourteen walks following the river from Greenwich to Thames Head... a walk into the heart of England.

Jason Hicklin, 2026



London from Greenwich
Etching on zinc panel, 2026
Image size: 915 x 715 mm



London from Gallions Reach I
 (Diptych) Watercolour and wax crayon, 2026
 Image size: 1150 x 760 mm



London from Gallions Reach II
 (Diptych) Watercolour and wax crayon, 2026
 Image size: 1150 x 760 mm



The Thames, City of London I
Etching, 2026
Image size: 450 x 300 mm



The Thames, City of London II
Etching, 2026
Image size: 450 x 300 mm



The Thames, City of London III
Etching, 2026
Image size: 450 x 300 mm



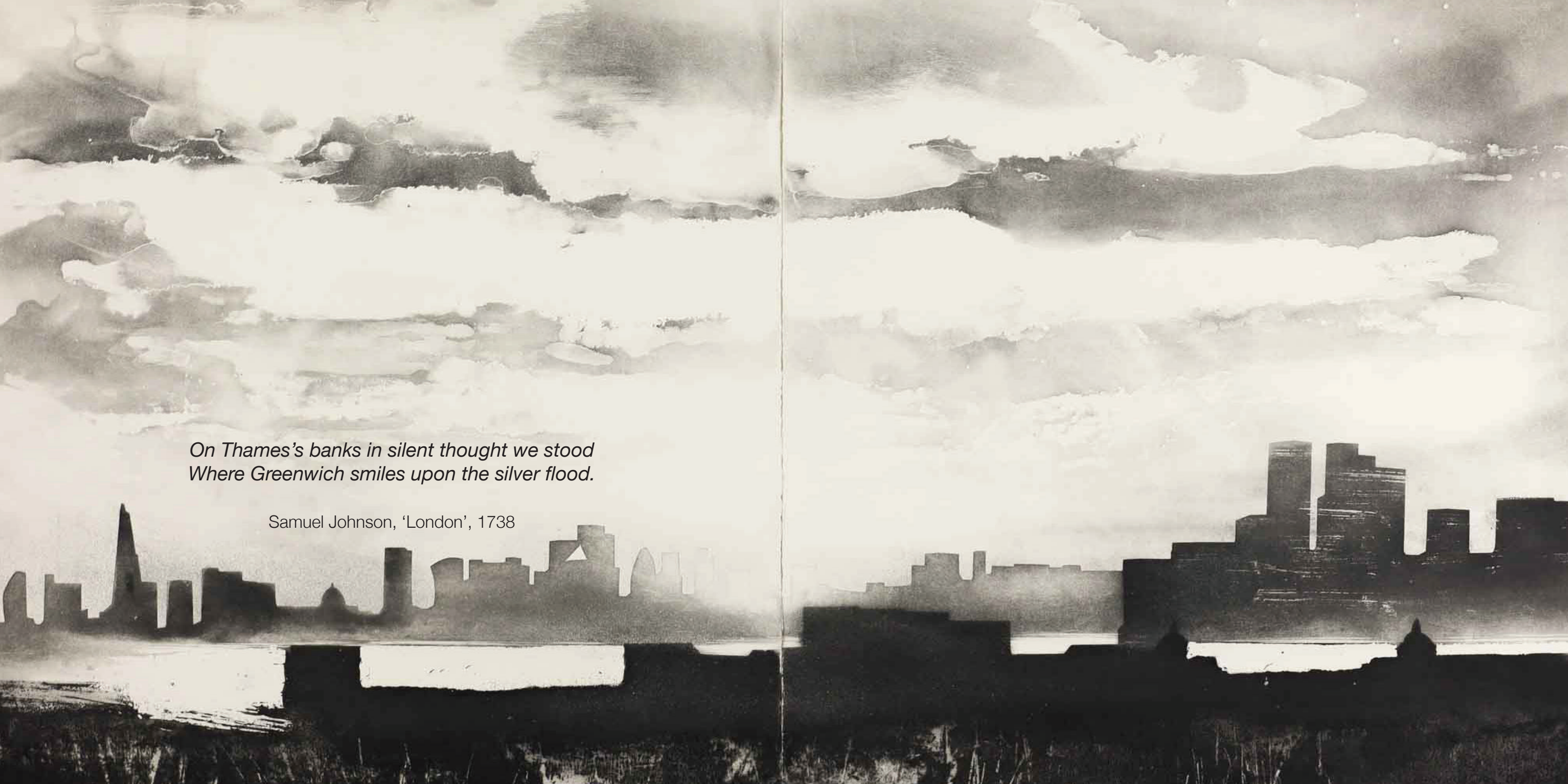
London from Richmond Park
Etching, 2026
Image size: 450 x 300 mm



The Thames, Athens, Eton
Etching, 2026
Image size: 450 x 300 mm



The Thames, Wittenham Clumps II
Etching, 2026
Image size: 450 x 300 mm



*On Thames's banks in silent thought we stood
Where Greenwich smiles upon the silver flood.*

Samuel Johnson, 'London', 1738



The Thames, The City from Waterloo Bridge
(Hexptych) Etching, 2026
Image size: 1510 x 900 mm



The Thames, Hammersmith
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 250 x 200 mm

The Thames, Chiswick
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Barnes
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 250 x 200 mm



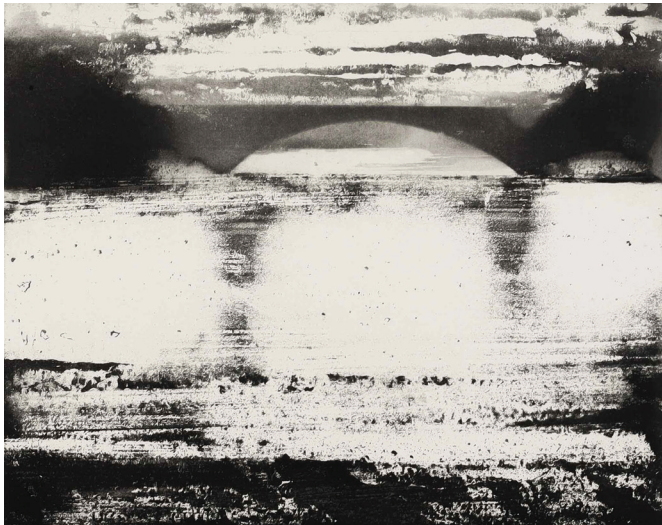
The Thames, Kew
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Kingston
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Windsor
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Runnymede
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Athens
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 250 x 200 mm



London from Greenwich Park
(Diptych) Etching, 2026
Image size: 1115 x 775 mm



The Thames, Bray

Etching, 2026

Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Marlow

Etching, 2026

Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Maidenhead

Etching, 2026

Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Temple Bridge

Etching, 2026

Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Pangbourne

Etching, 2026

Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Shillingford

Etching, 2026

Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Goring Gap

Etching, 2026

Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Wittenham Clumps

Etching, 2026

Image size: 250 x 200 mm



Athens

Watercolour and wax crayon on paper, 2026
Image size: 310 x 155 mm

Shillingford

Watercolour and wax crayon on paper, 2026
Image size: 310 x 155 mm

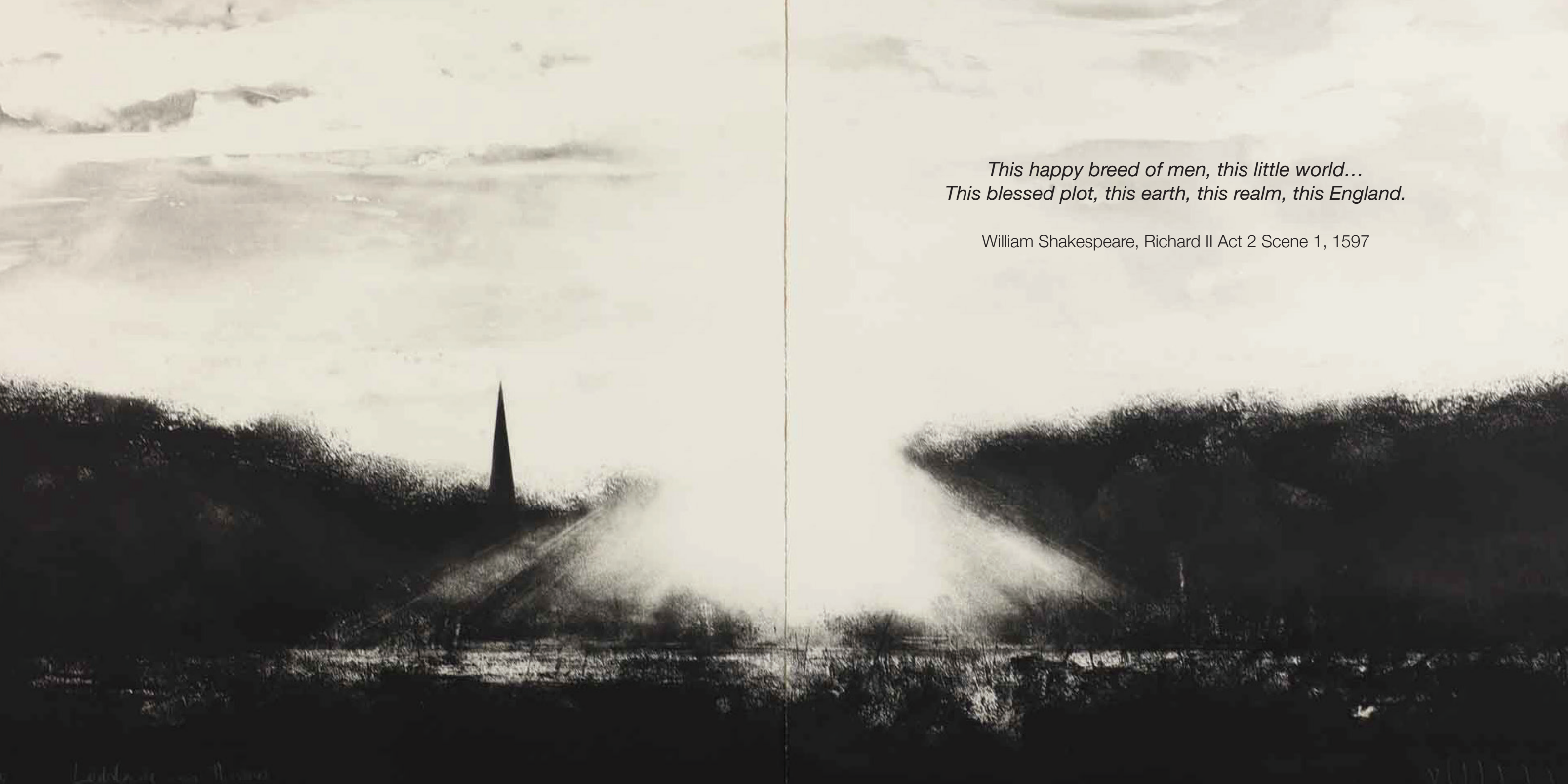


Buscot

Watercolour and wax crayon on paper, 2026
Image size: 310 x 155 mm

Lechlade

Watercolour and wax crayon on paper, 2026
Image size: 310 x 155 mm



*This happy breed of men, this little world...
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.*

William Shakespeare, Richard II Act 2 Scene 1, 1597



Lechlade-on-Thames

Watercolour and wax crayon on paper, 2026

Image size: 310 x 155 mm

Inglesham

Watercolour and wax crayon on paper, 2026

Image size: 310 x 155 mm



Kempsford

Watercolour and wax crayon on paper, 2026

Image size: 310 x 155 mm

Cricklade

Watercolour and wax crayon on paper, 2026

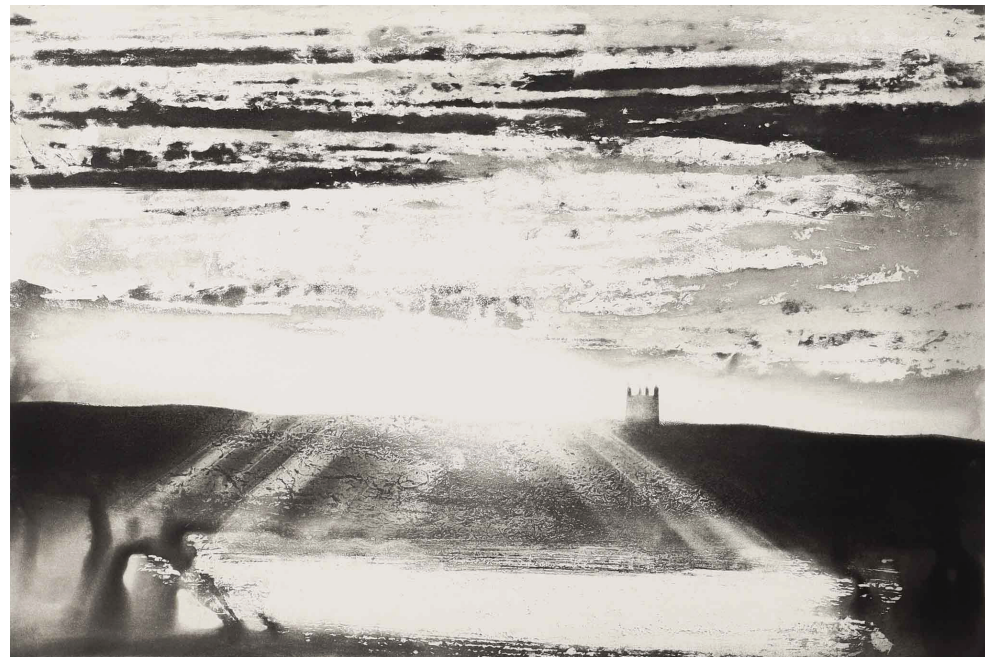
Image size: 310 x 155 mm



The Thames, Lechlade II
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 450 x 300 mm



The Thames, Iffley
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 450 x 300 mm



The Thames, Cricklade II
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 450 x 300 mm



The Thames, Shifford
 Etching, 2026
 Image size: 450 x 300 mm

London from Richmond
(Diptych) Etching, 2026
Image size: 1115 x 775 mm





The Thames, Athens, Eton

Etching and silver graphite on paper, 2026

Image size: 435 x 250 mm



The Thames, Shifford

Etching and silver graphite on paper, 2026

Image size: 435 x 250 mm



The Thames, Wittenham Clumps II

Etching and silver graphite on paper, 2026

Image size: 435 x 250 mm



The Thames, Lechlade II

Etching and silver graphite on paper, 2026

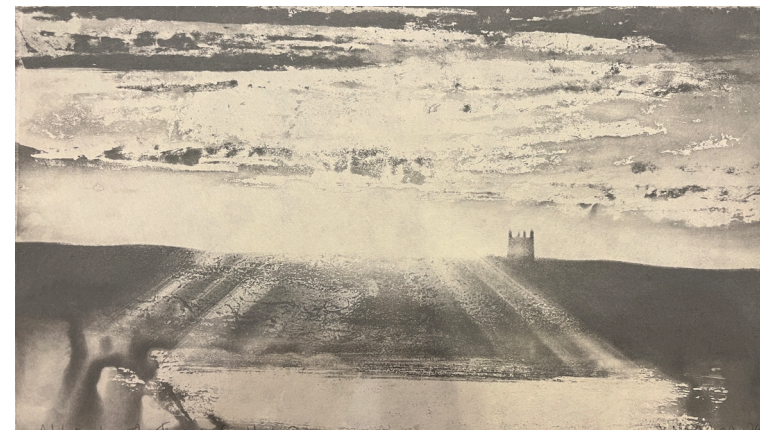
Image size: 435 x 250 mm



The Thames, Iffley

Etching and silver graphite on paper, 2026

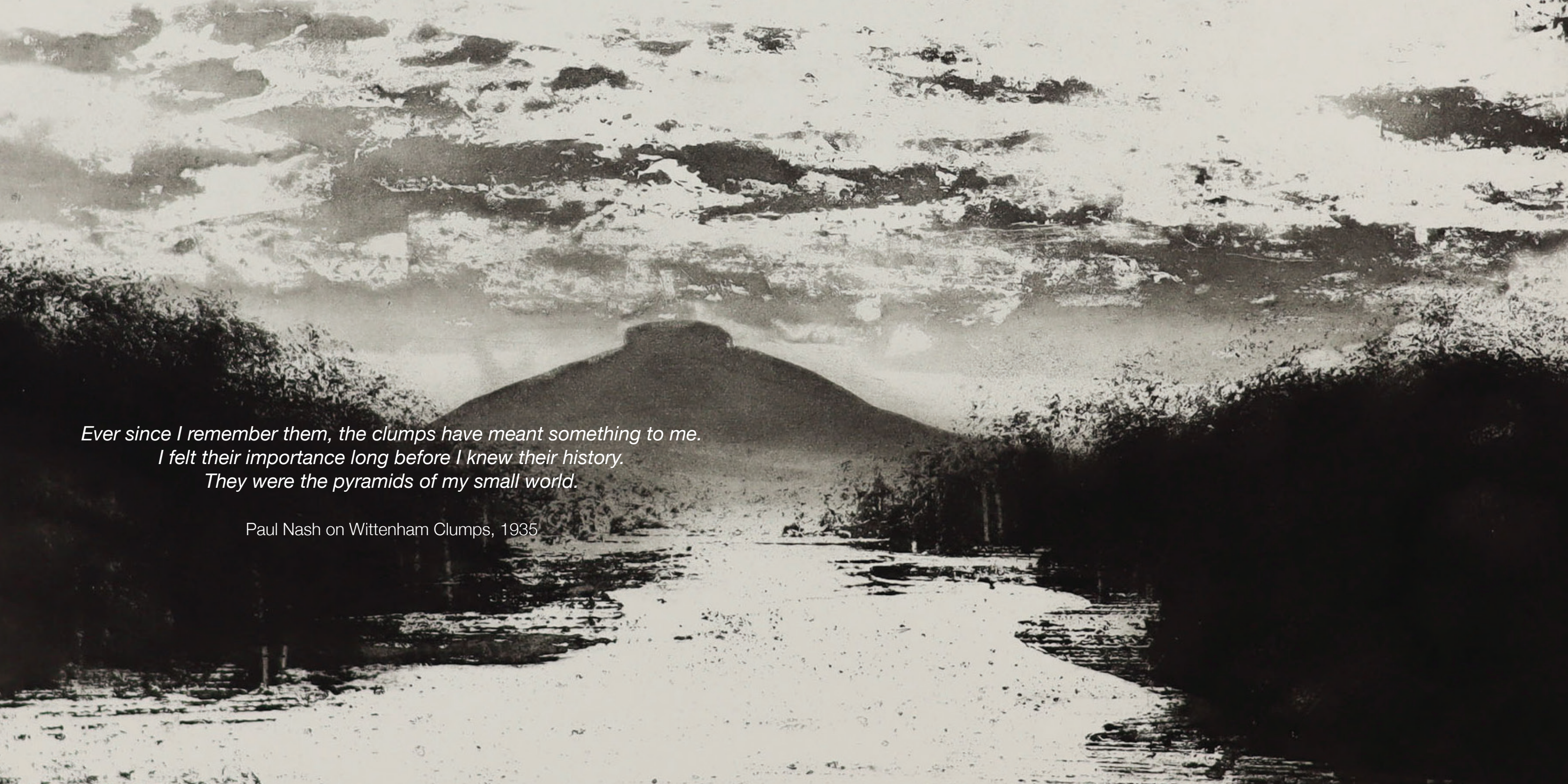
Image size: 435 x 250 mm



The Thames, Cricklade II

Etching and silver graphite on paper, 2026

Image size: 435 x 250 mm



*Ever since I remember them, the clumps have meant something to me.
I felt their importance long before I knew their history.
They were the pyramids of my small world.*

Paul Nash on Wittenham Clumps, 1935



The Thames, Wittenham Clumps, Round and Castle Hill

(Diptych) Etching, 2026

Image size: 1115 x 775 mm



Lechlade-on-Thames

(Diptych) Etching, 2026

Image size: 905 x 495 mm



The Thames, Oxford
Etching, 2026
Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Buscot
Etching, 2026
Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, River Cherwell
Etching, 2026
Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Lechlade
Etching, 2026
Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Inglesham
Etching, 2026
Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Cricklade
Etching, 2026
Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Kempford
Etching, 2026
Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Thames Head
Etching, 2026
Image size: 250 x 200 mm



The Thames, Wittenham Clumps

Etching on zinc panel, 2026

Image size: 915 x 710 mm



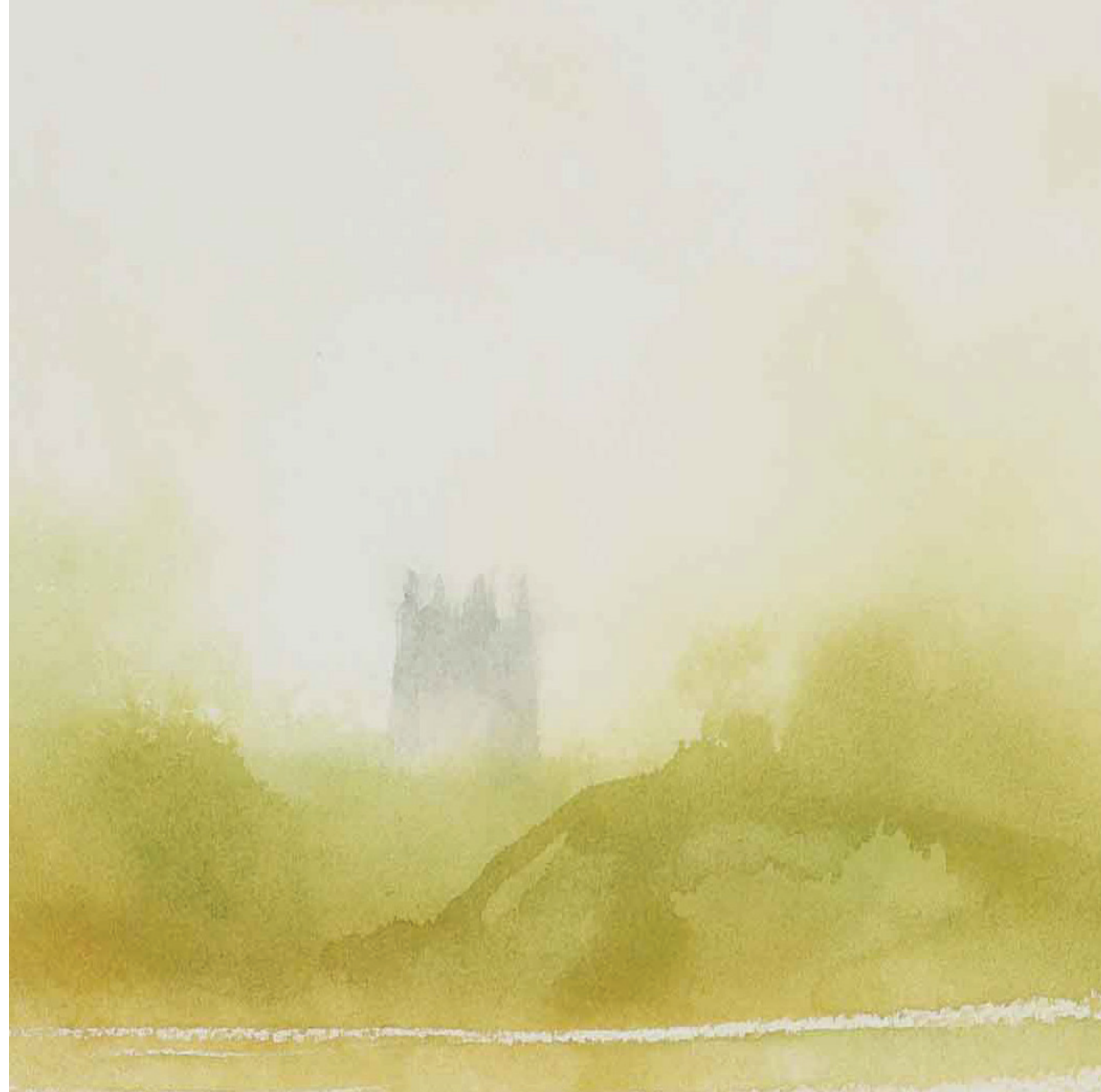
Jason Hicklin was born in Wolverhampton in 1966 and studied at St. Martin's College of Art where he was a student of the renowned printmaker Norman Ackroyd. After completing a postgraduate course at the Central School of Art in 1991, Hicklin combined working as Ackroyd's studio assistant and editioner with producing his own work.

Hicklin's paintings and etchings capture the feel of the weather and its effect on the landscape. All of Hicklin's work begins outdoors. Carrying minimal equipment, he will walk and climb the desired area for days and sometimes nights, even in extreme weather. The result is a striking record of the elemental collisions between earth, sea and weather. His work is charged with an atmosphere born of an intimate knowledge of the landscape and a direct physical experience of its changing moods.

In 1993 Hicklin was elected a member of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers (RE), and he has had numerous solo and joint exhibitions. He has been awarded the Hunting Art Prize at the Royal College of Art and the Julian Trevelyan RE Memorial Prize at the National Printmaking Exhibition in 1997. Most recently, Hicklin was awarded the Clifford Chance LLP Acquisition Prize at the Original Print Show at the Bankside Gallery. Hicklin is Head of Printmaking at City & Guilds of London Art School and has a studio in Shropshire.

Dark River, To the Source of the Thames is Jason's eleventh solo show at Eames Fine Art Gallery and his fourth body of work produced over seven years walking the bank of the Thames.

Above: Jason at the source of the river, 2026



Eames Fine Art Ltd

Gallery: 58 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3UD

Print Room: 159 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3UW

Studio: Ground Floor, 54-58 Tanner Street, London SE1 3PH

T: +44 (0)20 7407 6561 **E:** info@eamesfineart.com **W:** eamesfineart.com