

The Solar Date Mark

On the back of all the painted works there is now included a 'Solar Date Mark'. This is stamped in ink using a set of letter/ number punches to be easily visible and consistent.

This applies to certain works from late 2020 and all the works from 2021 onwards.

The Solar Date Mark can be found on the reverse of the panels and on the wooden stretcher bars of works on linen.

It does not feature on the Monotype drawings as they are made in the print making studio often many days after the event that is the source and inspiration of the Monotype drawing.

This Solar Date Mark records the moment the painting was made in relation to the 'birth' of that year's Sun. This renewal of the Solar year happens on the dawn that marks the end of the longest night of the year, which of course occurs at the Winter Solstice, usually on or around 20th December. So the first day of the Solar Year of 2021 would be noted on a piece of work made that day as 001 / 21

For example within the set of work for the Helios show :

Ancient Dancing Oak in Winter Sun - Hatch

(Oil on linen) 47 x 54.5 cm

076 / 21

Was made or 'ignited' on the 76th day after the Winter Solstice that happened on Monday 21st December 2020.

Here is a image of the stamped mark :

To put it in one sentence :

The Solar Date Mark records the day or night the picture was begun in the landscape and marks that time on our yearly path around the Sun from one Winter Solstice to the next.



The above is a concise explanation of the Solar Date Mark.

Here below in more detail the story behind this way of marking the work with its title :

In the last two years i have had moments of insight and understanding of the source of my Inspiration being anchored in the seasons and the constant attraction towards the Western most coasts of Europe.

There is gathered more and more archaeological evidence to indicate that an ancient developed Neolithic Culture existed and its 'heart land' was on the Atlantic coast from Portugal all the way north to the Orkney Isles .

Many of these western locations i have worked at since 1991 have vestiges of this Neolithic Culture in the form of megaliths and henges. The vast majority of these structures are orientated in construction with the certain positions of the Sun, Moon and the Stars. The inclusion of the Solar Date Mark on the reverse of the works is a natural reflection and acknowledgement of this relationship in the landscape and the History of the people who have stood there before. It also records that often the mountains and islands that are my focus when working are aligned with these pre historic structures. Often I only discover this alignment later after having worked at these locations for many sessions.

In relation to the annual Solstice and Equinox points this date mark is more accurate than the Gregorian date which is so susceptible to change due to the leap year.

The three digit format and use of the same metal punches is to ensure clarity and that the mark is clearly identifiable if looked for.