

NICOLAS AUVRAY GALLERY

Paul Hughes  
“Bastard Blue”  
Catalogue of work  
Spring 2023

Nicolas Auvray Gallery - New York

[www.nicolasauvraygallery.com](http://www.nicolasauvraygallery.com)

+ | 917 340 3639 (USA) | [info@nicolasauvraygallery.com](mailto:info@nicolasauvraygallery.com)

NYC: 522 West 23rd street, New York, NY, 10011

# Paul Hughes

## **“BASTARD BLUE”**

“For a long time I struggled with blue, for me it was the colour of logic, order, organisation. And while I’ve nothing against logic, it’s never been how I work.

My process doesn’t do order, my paintings don’t start with a destination.

Instead they’re born in the chaos of the doing, painted on the ground, they evolve, they mutate, depending on the light that day, the music I’m listening to, as I move in constant motion around them.

And that wasn’t blue.

And then, like the lover in a Charlotte Bronte or Jane Austen story that the protagonist first hates but then loves, blue revealed itself.

I started surrounded by the wild elemental scapes of land, sea and sky, between the Beara and the Iveragh on the Atlantic-lashed coasts near Kenmare.

There, looking at its blues, sometimes for days on end, I saw blue wasn’t order or calm, it was wild, seductive, raw, ungrounded.

That it wasn’t one shade, it was a million.

That far from being the reassuring presence of the paintbox, was the maddest, craziest, bastard there was.

That like the sirens of Greek mythology, could change from softness to malevolence in a split second.

And that’s what I wanted to paint.”

Paul Hughes, 2023

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Gallery: 522 West 23rd Street, Chelsea, New York

# Paul Hughes

Paul was born and raised in Dublin. He works out of his studio, an old pig barn in Blackrock in Dublin. It gives him the space and opportunity he craves to develop a continuous flow of new abstract landscapes. Paul has been painting for over 35 years. Over this time he has built up a very loyal following. It is only in the last 16 years though that he has publicly exhibited his work.

Paul's obsession has always been light, particularly the beautiful Dark-Light around Dublin Bay. His work is constantly evolving and he has an inability to settle and to not keep seeking to progress his work through constant and continuous abstraction of this light, that is full of darkness.

In his latest project, which has been over 18 months in development, Paul has endeavoured to breakout of the restrains of seascapes, no matter how abstract they were, and to deconstruct everything to pure colour expression in which the darker spaces between give the light it's intensity. The result is everything is impact and energy.

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## “BASTARD BLUE”



*The Deep Empty*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 59 in



*The Moment, The Memory*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 59 in



*The Glorious Between*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 59 in



*A Coquetish Blush*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
55 x 43.3 in



*Sleepwalking*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
47 x 39.3 in



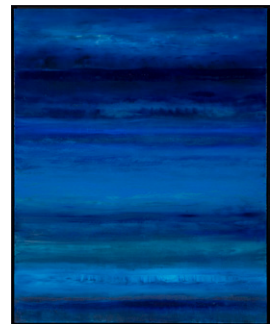
*The Saturation of Moonlight*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 47 in



*Set Adrift on Memory Bliss*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 47 in



*Melting Light Melting Heart*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 47 in



*Tidal II*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 47 in

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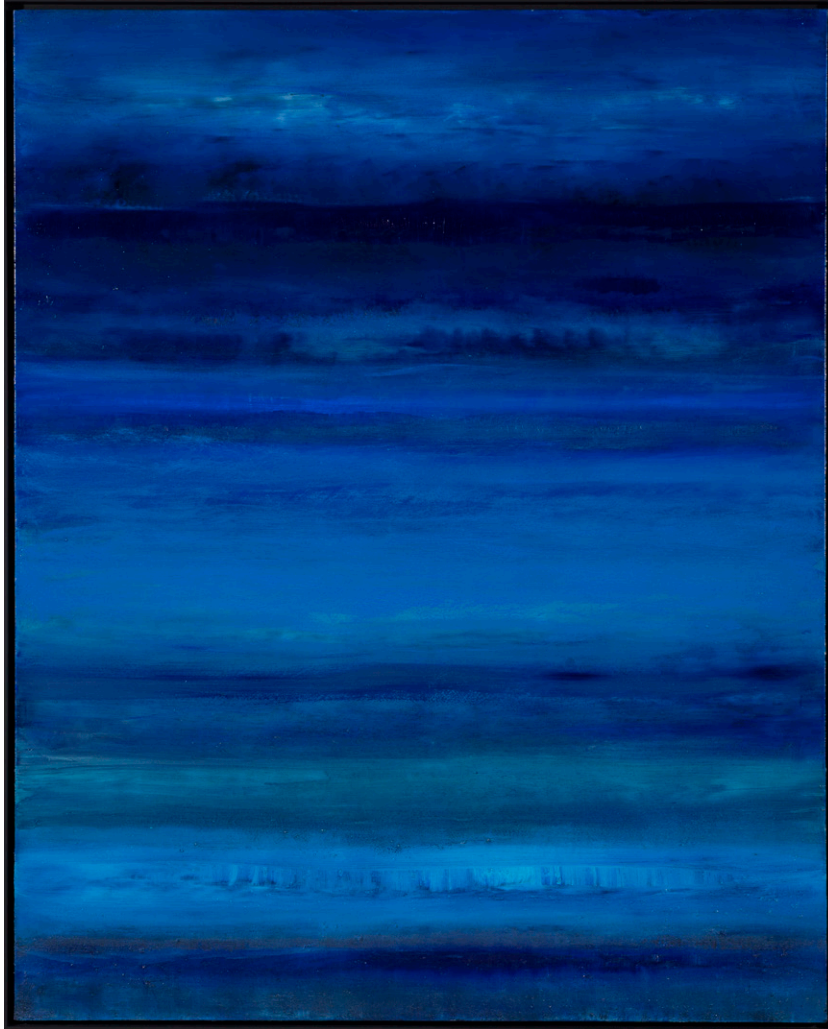
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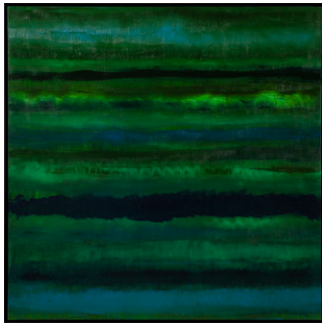
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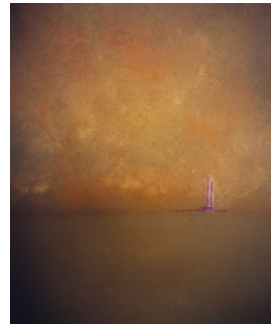
## “OTHER WORK 2023”



*All that we see or seem is but....A Dream within a Dream*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 59 in



*Everything and More*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
59 x 59 in



*Untitled I*



*Work In progress Reds 1*



*Work In progress Reds II*



*Work In progress Reds III*



*Work In progress Green I*



*Work In progress Green II*



*Work In progress Green III*

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