XVA GALLERY
RICHARD KETLEY 'SWAHILI'

‘A language, a
culture, a coral blue coastline, a style, a palette – a world that joins up my world - Arab and African. That stretches from the Gulf of Hormuz to Northern Mozambique. A world in which I live and over which I fly – a little too regularly.

The exhibition in paint and pattern is a response to this
world, which combines large works on canvas and smaller works on drafting film and photomontage.’

Richard Ketley, 2018

For full details and larger images, please see the end of this document.



Richard Ketley
Nights of Qaboos, 2018
Acrylic On Canvas
90 x 160 x 7 cm
(RK 028)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Misrah, 2018
Acrylic On Canvas
90 x 160 x 7 cm
(RK 029)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Port of Call, 2019
Oil on drafting film
180 x 84 x 0.1 cm
(RK 30)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Watamu, 2018
Oil on drafting film
110 x 84 x 0.1 cm
(RK 031)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Runes of the year IV, 2018
Acrylic on drafting film
54 x 51 x 0.1 cm
(RK 032)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Runes of the year II, 2018
Acrylic on drafting film
54 x 51 x 0.1 cm
(RK 033)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Runes of the year III, 2018
Acrylic on drafting film
54 x 51 x 0.1 cm
(RK 034)

View detail



Richard Ketley View detail
Runes of the year I, 2018
Acrylic on drafting film
54 x 51 x 0.1 cm
(RK 035)



Richard Ketley View detail
Kampala Grey, 2017
Oil and charcoal on tracing paper
42 x 29 x 0.1 cm
(RK 036)



Richard Ketley View detail
Tales of the uninhabited isles, 2018
Acrylic on drafting film
134 x 110 x 0.1 cm
(RK 037)



Richard Ketley View detail
Island Life 2, 2017
Acrylic on drafting film
110 x 84 x 0.1 cm
(RK 038)



Richard Ketley View detail
Escarpment, 2018
Acrylic, Ink on Canvas
110 x 90 x 7 cm
(RK 039)



Richard Ketley View detail
Hajah, 2018
Acrylic On Canvas
20 x 60 x 7 cm
(RK 040)



Richard Ketley View detail
Not so many routes, 2018
Acrylic on drafting film
72 x 103 x 0.1 cm
(RK 041)



Richard Ketley View detail
Creekside I, 2018
Acrylic, Photomontage mounted on Perspex
26 x 20 x 0.2 cm
(RK 042)



Richard Ketley View detail
Creekside II, 2018
Acrylic, Photomontage mounted on Perspex
26 x 20 x 0.2 cm
(RK 043)



Richard Ketley View detail
Creekside III, 2018
Acrylic, Photomontage mounted on Perspex
26 x 20 x 0.2 cm
(RK 044)



Richard Ketley View detail
Swahili blue II, 2018
Ink on Drafting Film
47 x 41 x 0.1 cm
(RK 045)



Richard Ketley View detail
Swahili blue I, 2018
Ink on Drafting Film
47 x 41 x 0.1 cm
(RK 046)



Richard Ketley
Swahili blue IV, 2018
Ink on Drafting Film
47 x 41 x 0.1 cm
(RK 047)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Swahili blue III, 2018
Ink on Drafting Film
47 x 41 x 0.1 cm
(RK 048)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Fort Jesus, 2016
Oil On Canvas
77 x 60 x 0.1 cm
(RK 049)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Where to?, 2016
Oil on plywood
61 x 54 x 0.1 cm
(RK 050)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Sesse blue - Island Life, 2017
Acrylic on drafting film
189 x 336 x 0.1 cm
(RK 051)

View detail



Richard Ketley
Trade Winds III Diptych, 2016
Oil and charcoal on tracing paper
120 x 200 x 0.1 cm
(RK 052)

View detail

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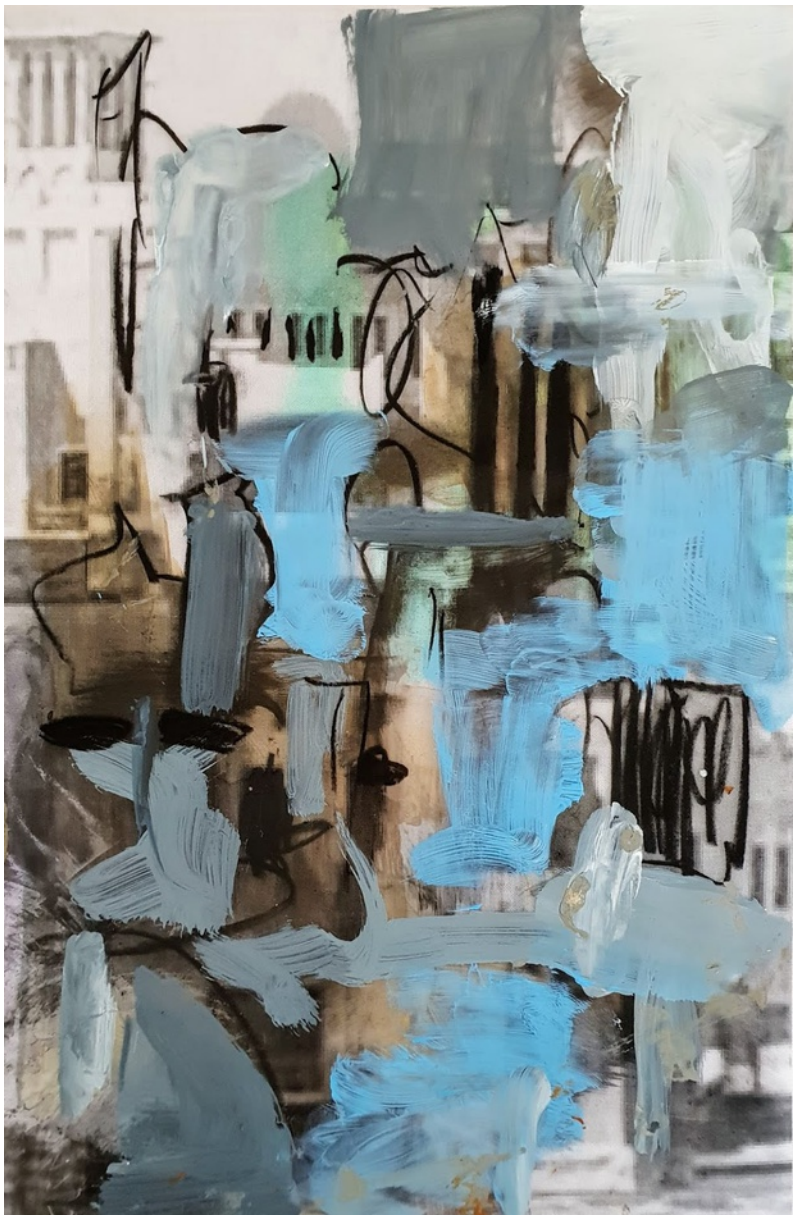
Creekside I, 2018



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Creekside II, 2018



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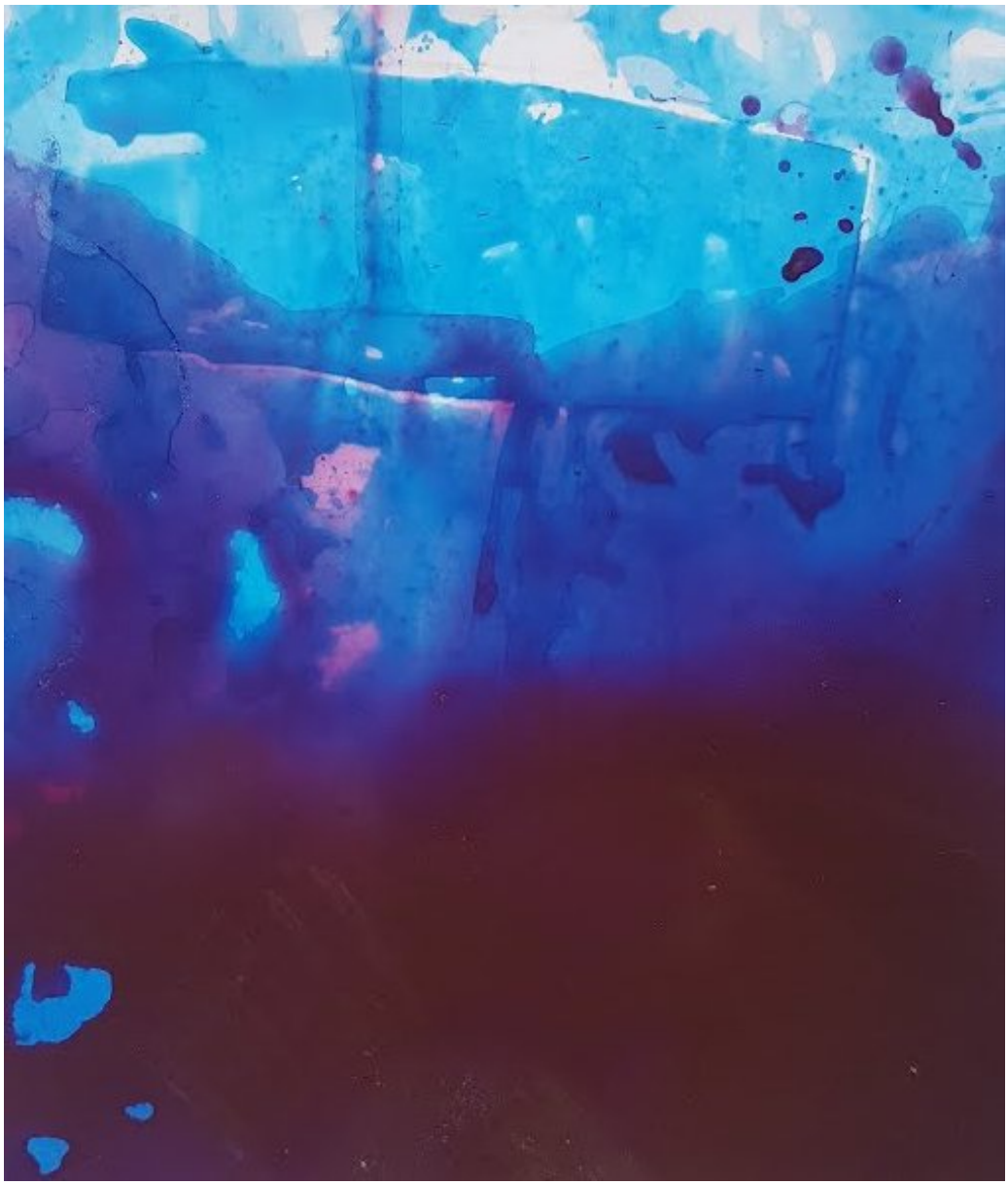

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Swahili blue III, 2018



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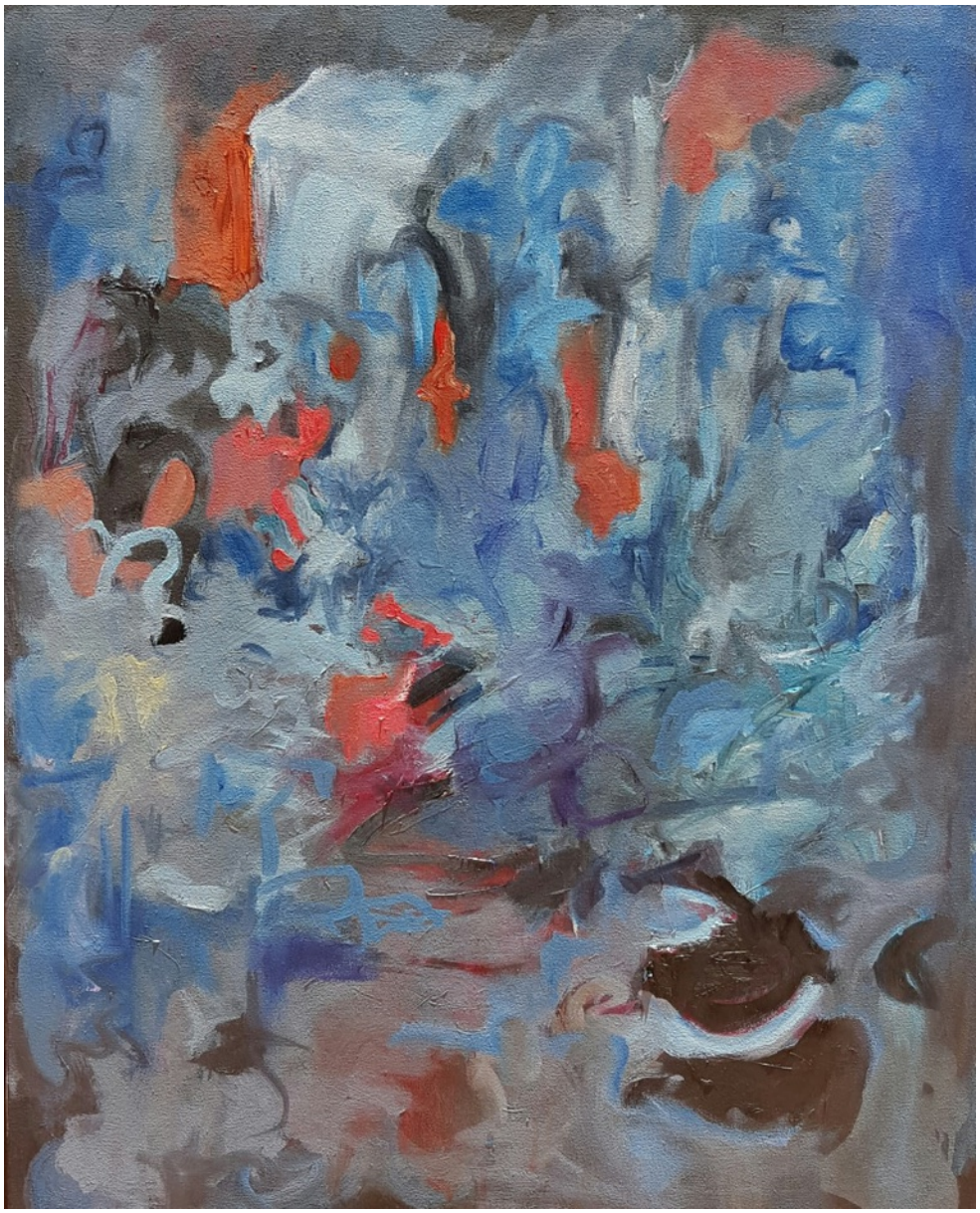
Fort Jesus, 2016



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Trade Winds III Diptych, 2016



Oil and charcoal on tracing paper
120 x 200 x 0.1 cm
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Painting and drawing
is an integral part of my life, and has been since a very early age. At the moment I am interested in formal elements of painting and drawing inspired by the world around me and the many countries I visit, and in finding meaning where others do not - in the fall of light on a sandy building in Riyadh, the chaos of the shacks of Kampala, the crowded taxi parks of Johannesburg. My art is a search for perfection that is not often found in life. I am fortunate enough to travel widely in the Middle East and Africa, but I have not found my Tahiti - a landscape populated with many Venuses and primary colours, instead I find landscape covered in sandy construction sites, tin roofed shacks, humanity sweating as trucks our loaded with voluminous bundles. But within these spaces there is balance and form and structure - all elements that are abstracted in my paintings.
Richard Ketley