

DESMOND MORRIS THE LAST SURREALIST

11TH MAY - 10TH JUNE 2022

The Redfern Gallery is delighted to announce the opening of *Desmond Morris: The Last Surrealist*, featuring a selection of paintings, works on paper and sculpture.

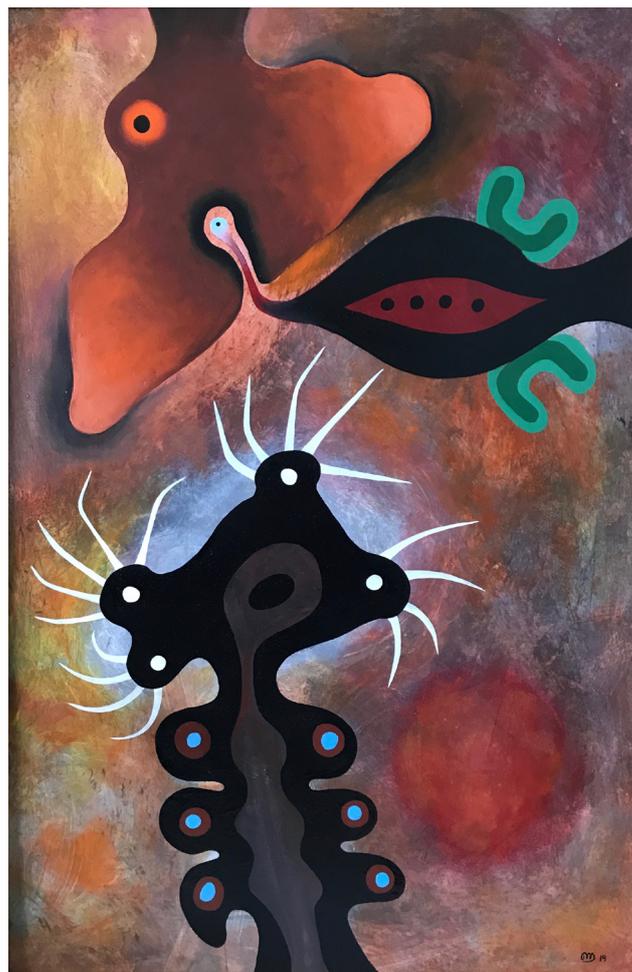
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Wiltshire in 1928, Desmond Morris developed an interest in writing and natural history from a young age. In 1948, whilst studying for his degree in zoology at the University of Birmingham, Morris started making drawings under the microscope, of biological organisms. This indirectly inspired him to create, in the words of David Attenborough, a “menagerie of creatures that were all his own”. Despite Morris’ knowledge of biology, these bizarre creatures are purely invented and irrational. The artist explains that “they evolve on the canvas, and they belong in their own dimension”. Indeed, he is keen to stress that the drawings are a chance to let his “imagination run free”.

ABOUT THE REDFERN GALLERY

The Redfern Gallery was founded in 1923 at Redfern House, 27 Old Bond Street, London W1. The gallery moved to its current premises 20 Cork Street in 1936. It is one of the longest-established dealers of Modern British and Contemporary art in London. The Redfern Gallery represents over 30 contemporary artists and artists’ estates. It also has an extensive stock of modern and contemporary paintings, drawings, watercolours, sculpture and original prints.

EXHIBITION ACCOMPANIED BY A
FULLY ILLUSTRATED E-CATALOGUE



Desmond Morris, *Harbinger*, 2019, Oil on board, 91.5 x 61 cm

“Desmond Morris sits alongside Joan Miró and Jean Arp as a master of biomorphic Surrealism. The strange, organismic shapes he creates, which inhabit eerily marvellous landscapes, are a sublime combination of wit and wonder.”

- Will Gompertz, Director of Arts and Learning at the Barbican

PRIVATE VIEW TUESDAY 24TH MAY 6-8PM

INCLUDING AN ONLINE TALK BY THE ARTIST, STREAMED LIVE FROM HIS HOME IN IRELAND

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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