

# JOHN BYRNE



WELCOME TO MY WORLD

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**EMILY WALSH** John is an epiphany baby, born 6th January 1940. 2020 began, then, with a notable birthday and an unreasonably busy calendar that included a new theatre production, in conversations, a television profile, a legion of requests that are patiently accepted and a gallery show. Much of it to celebrate him turning 80 though it's not that different to most years. We know what happened next and much that was planned is now postponed. Except one, this show. For John life carries on: the solitary world of an artist and the gift of uninterrupted time in his studio.

The show is about John looking back at himself. An autobiography of sorts. Artists have self-scrutinised through the centuries and nowadays everyone is at it with selfies. Unlike the vacuity of the latter, John looks beyond the surface but what the revelation is, the viewer, are not privy. The double portraits of John talking to his young self are, perhaps, those most easily given a narrative. What words of advice might we offer to our younger selves? Would we listen, if we were told?

John's imagination is set to a sound track of the 60s: the show shares its title with a Jim Reeves song released as a single in 1964. Alongside the portraits is the Paisley of John's youth and imagined vignettes of New York life, a city that impacted on him.

*Welcome to my world  
Won't you come on in?  
Miracles, I guess  
Still happen now and then*

*Knock and the door will open  
Seek and you will find  
Ask and you'll be given  
The key to this world of mine*

*Step into my heart  
Leave your cares behind  
Welcome to my world  
Built with you in mind*

*I'll be waiting here  
With my arms unfurled  
Waiting just for you  
Welcome to my world*

*Waiting just for you  
Welcome to my world*

(Ray Winkler and John Hathcock)





RETURN TO NEW YORK (2020)  
signed; titled and inscribed on stretcher verso  
oil on linen . 27 1/2 x 19 1/2 inches





SKINNY SELF PORTRAIT (2019)  
signed  
oil on scraperboard . 8 x 5 inches



SKINNY SELF PORTRAIT II (2020)  
initialled  
watercolour on scraperboard . 12 x 5 1/2 inches



ME AND MY SHADOW (2019)  
signed  
oil on scraperboard . 6 1/2 x 12 inches





SELF PORTRAIT IN STRIPED T-SHIRT (2019)  
signed  
oil on scraperboard . 5 1/4 x 5 inches



SELF PORTRAIT IN 'MISHA' T-SHIRT (2019)  
signed  
oil on scraperboard . 11 x 8 inches





GUY WITH CAT (2019)  
signed  
oil on scraperboard . 9 3/4 x 6 1/2 inches

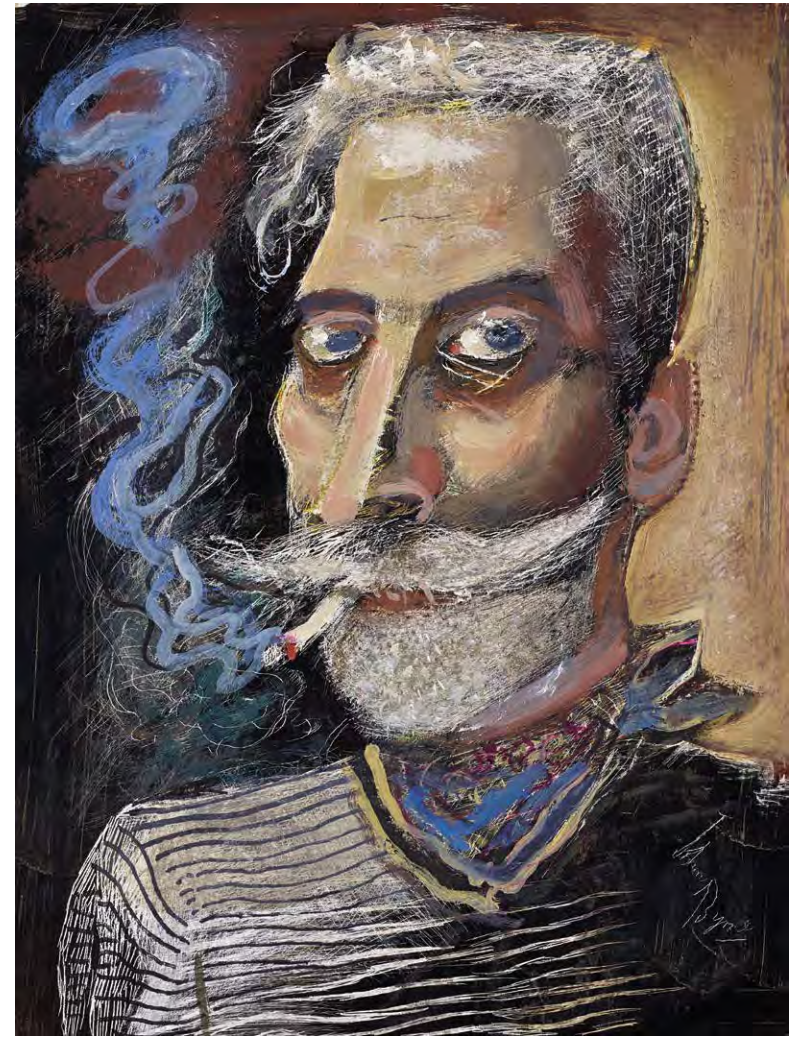


NIGHT IN THE CITY (2020)  
signed  
oil on canvas . 11 3/4 x 9 1/4 inches





OLD GUY IN SLOPPY JOE (2020)  
signed  
oil on scraperboard . 8 x 7 inches



HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (2020)  
signed  
watercolour on scraperboard . 11 1/2 x 8 3/4 inches





ME & HIM (2020)  
signed; titled, initialled JB and inscribed with medium verso  
ink and watercolour on scraperboard . 14 1/4 x 11 1/2 inches



ME & HIM II (2020)  
signed  
ink and bodycolour on canvas . 19 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches





THE SHOCK (2020)  
signed  
oil on board . 24 x 20 inches



**HANDS UP** (2020)  
signed  
bodycolour on scraperboard . 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches

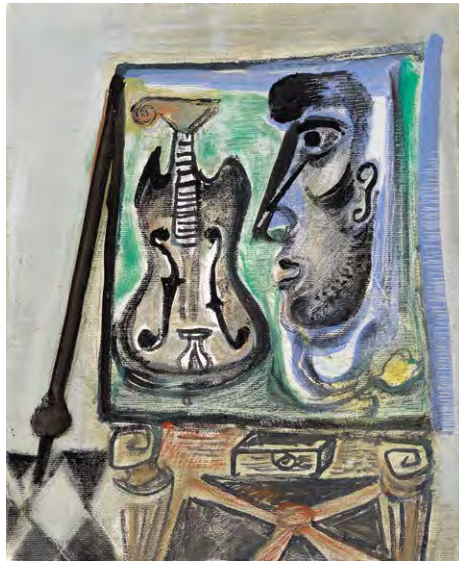


**SELF PORTRAIT IN YELLOW HAT**  
signed and numbered 'AP' in pencil to margin; initialled JB and inscribed verso  
hand-coloured lithograph . 7 3/4 x 5 inches



THE QUANDARY (2020)  
signed  
oil, gouache and undercoat on canvas . 15 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches





MANDOLIN AND BUST (2020)  
titled and inscribed on linen verso  
ink and watercolour on linen . 11 3/4 x 9 1/2 inches

YELLOW GUITAR (2020)  
initialled; titled and inscribed on board verso  
oil on canvas board . 12 x 10 inches



R & B (2020)  
titled and inscribed on linen verso  
oil and bodycolour on linen . 11 3/4 x 9 1/2 inches



GUITAR AND LIME (2020)  
initialled; titled and inscribed on linen verso  
gouache and ink on linen . 12 x 11 3/4 inches





**BLUE MOON (2020)**  
signed; initialled JB, titled and inscribed with medium verso  
ink and gouache on panel . 13 1/2 x 5 3/4 inches



**BOOGIE WOOGIE (2020)**  
initialled JB; initialled JB, titled and inscribed with medium verso  
ink and gouache on panel . 13 1/2 x 5 3/4 inches

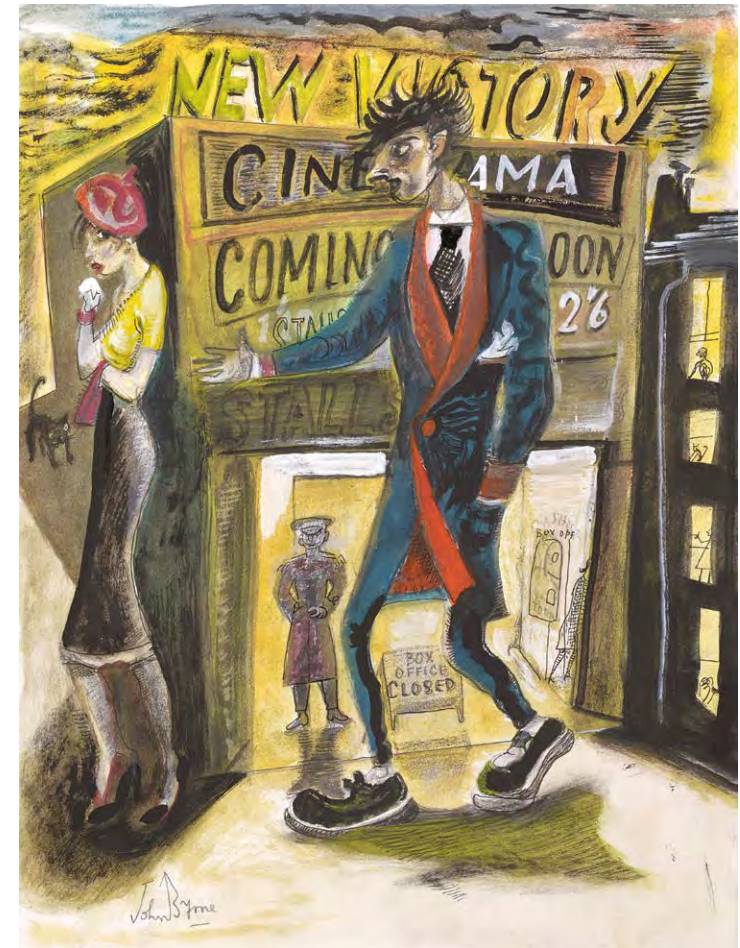


**CAFÉ BAR - PARIS (2020)**  
signed; titled, initialled JB and inscribed with medium verso  
ink and watercolour on scraperboard . 15 1/4 x 10 1/4 inches





THE ASSASSIN (2019)  
signed  
ink and bodycolour on panel . 13 1/4 x 11 1/2 inches



THE DIZZY (2020)  
signed; titled, initialed JB and inscribed with medium verso  
ink, watercolour, gouache and tempera on paper . 16 1/4 x 12 1/4 inches





TEDDY BOY OUTSIDE PAISLEY'S BUG HUT (2019)  
oil on scraperboard . 12 x 6 1/2 inches



TEDDY BOY WITH MOON AND CAT (2019)  
signed  
oil on scraperboard . 12 x 8 3/4 inches



STOOD UP (2020)  
signed  
ink and gouache on Arches paper laid on board . 30 x 22 5/8 inches



PAISLEY TEDDYBOY (2020)  
signed; titled and inscribed on stretcher verso  
oil and bodycolour on linen . 15 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches





CONSTRUCTION WORKER (2020)  
ink and bodycolour on Arches paper . 28 1/2 x 19 7/8 inches

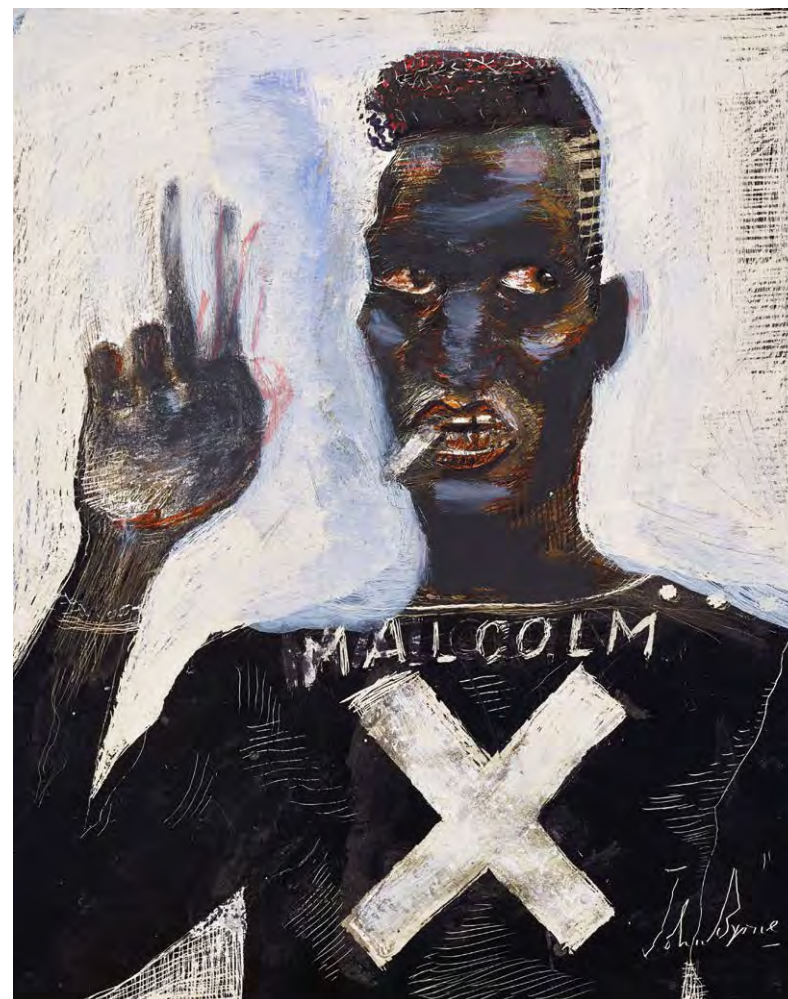


DOWNTOWN (2020)  
titled and inscribed on board verso  
oil on canvas board . 15 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches





SMOKEY JOE (2020)  
signed; titled and inscribed on linen verso  
oil and bodycolour on linen . 9 1/2 x 12 inches



THE STATEMENT (2020)  
signed  
gouache on scraperboard . 10 x 8 inches

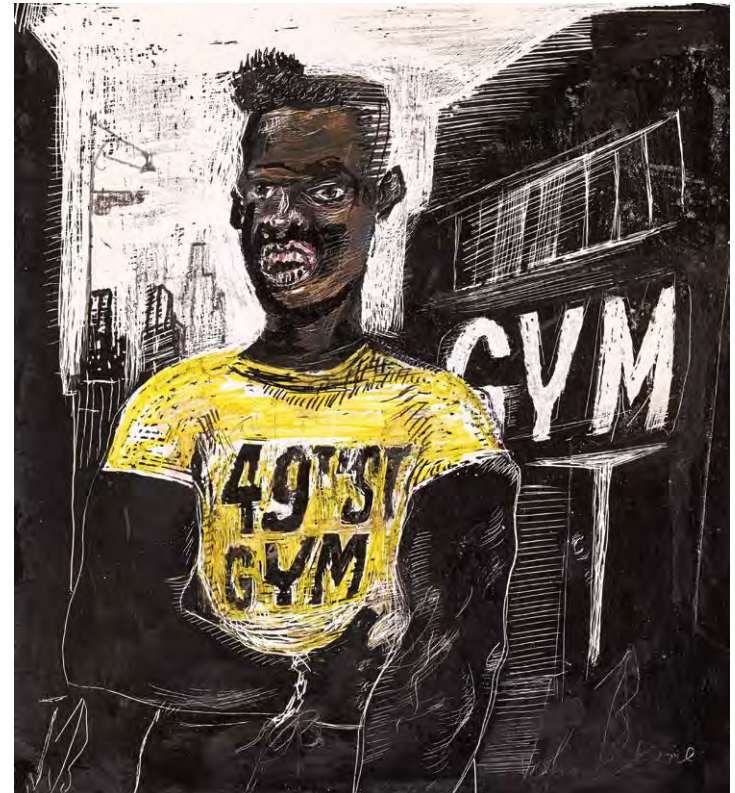




THE FATHER OF MAN (2020)  
signed; inscribed on linen verso  
oil and bodycolour on linen . 15 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches



DOWNTOWN BLACK GUY (2020)  
gouache on paper . 10 1/8 x 7 inches



HAPPY GUY - NY (2020)  
signed and initialled JB; titled, initialled JB and inscribed with medium verso  
ink and watercolour on scraperboard . 9 x 8 1/4 inches





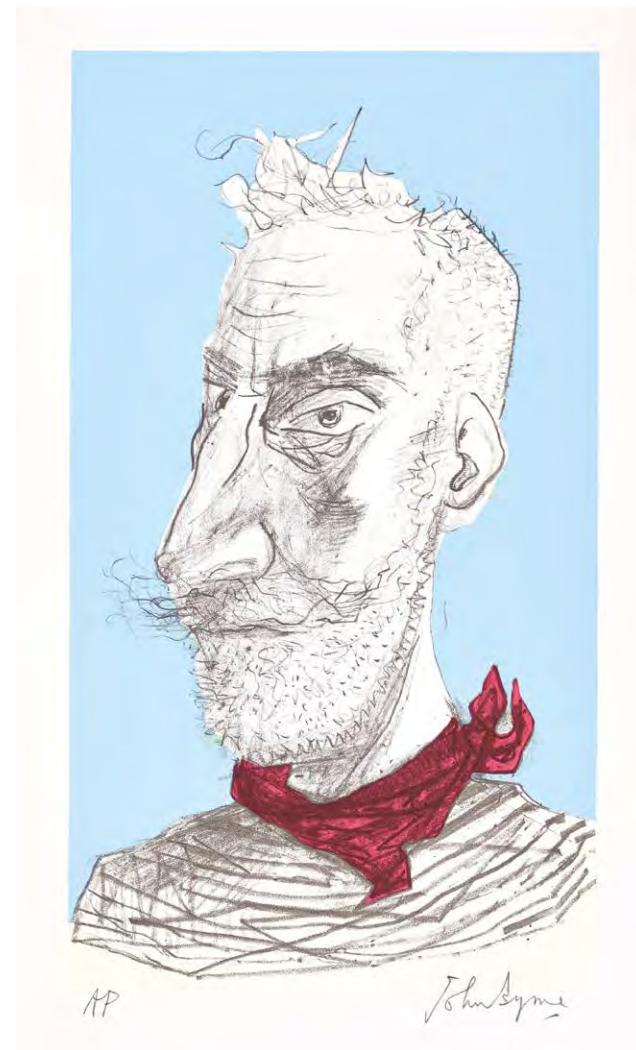
BY THE SEA (2020)  
signed  
oil and bodycolour on scraperboard . 3 1/2 x 12 inches



THE PILGRIM (2020)  
signed; titled and inscribed on linen verso  
oil and bodycolour on linen . 19 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches



THE RUNNER (2019)  
signed  
oil on scraperboard . 6 x 8 1/2 inches



SELF PORTRAIT WITH RED KERCHIEF  
signed and numbered 'AP' in pencil to margin  
screenprint . 22 1/2 x 12 3/4 inches





NOT ALL WORKS HAVE BEEN ILLUSTRATED

For a complete list of works in the exhibition,  
please contact the gallery at:  
[edinburgh@thefineartsociety.com](mailto:edinburgh@thefineartsociety.com)  
+44 (0)131 557 4050

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View the exhibition online at [thefineartsociety.com](http://thefineartsociety.com)

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