

Press Release

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FIRST MAJOR UK EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO EUAN UGLOW IN OVER 20 YEARS OPENS AT MK GALLERY

Euan Uglow: An Arc from the Eye
14 February – 31 May 2026



(Left) *Head of Pat*, 1978-83, Oil on canvas laid on panel. Collection of Bernard Jacobson Gallery. Image courtesy Browse and Darby, London; (Right Top) *Still Life with Honeysuckle*, 1968, Oil on panel. Image courtesy Piano Nobile, London; *The Mosque at Çiftlik Köyü*, 1966, Oil on board. AC 894, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London; (Right Bottom) *Three in One*, 1967-68, Oil on canvas. Image © 2014 and courtesy Christie's Images Limited. Image © and courtesy Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London. All works by Euan Uglow, All images © The estate of Euan Uglow. All rights reserved 2025 / Bridgeman Images.

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MK Gallery in Milton Keynes presents *Euan Uglow: An Arc from the Eye*, the first major UK exhibition in over twenty years dedicated to one of the most significant British figurative artists, on show from **14 February to 31 May 2026**.

Curated by Catherine Lampert, this landmark exhibition brings together over 70 of Euan Uglow's paintings and drawings from public and private collections, ranging from his iconic large-scale nudes, studio-based still lifes, to landscape works from his summers in Europe, shown alongside a series of works by artists who have influenced him including Paul Cezanne and Alberto Giacometti, and his tutors William Coldstream, Victor Pasmore and Claude Rogers.

Euan Uglow (1932-2000) is best known for his meticulous method of painting from life. Often taking many months or even years to complete one of his nudes or still life paintings, Uglow's exacting process of

repeated, careful measurements and a wholly devised set-up resulted in a very limited body of work, marking this exhibition a rare occasion.

An Arc from the Eye charts Uglow's engagement with art history from the Italian Renaissance to the 19th century, showcasing his landscapes from weeks spent in France, Italy, Morocco, Turkey and Cyprus, alongside the artist's most notable nudes and still lifes.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, generously funded by the Jerwood Foundation. The catalogue comprises newly commissioned writing by the show's curator Catherine Lampert and Dr Kate Aspinall, as well as contributions from artists John Stezaker, Ellen Altfest and Robert Dukes.

Euan Uglow: An Arc from the Eye is the latest in a series of major monographic exhibitions at MK Gallery, which aim at renewing critical attention to important artists. In 2024, *Vanessa Bell: A World of Form and Colour* saw the largest ever exhibition of the Bloomsbury artist's works, ranging from her paintings and drawings to her designs for furniture, book covers, ceramics, and more. Previous significant retrospectives include Larry Achiampong (2022-3), Laura Knight (2021-2), and George Stubbs (2020). MK Gallery will present two monographic exhibitions in 2026, including *Jacques Henri Lartigue: Life in Colour* (20 June – 4 October 2026) and *L.S. Lowry: The Battle of Life* (24 October 2026 – 28 February 2027).

Euan Uglow: An Arc from the Eye

14 February – 31 May 2026

MK Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 3QA

Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 5pm. Closed Mondays

<https://mkgallery.org/>

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Notes to Editors

About Euan Uglow

Born in London, Euan Uglow (1932-2000) was a British figurative artist. He expressed interest in art from an early age and enrolled at the Camberwell School of Art aged 15, studying under John Minton, Victor Pasmore, and William Coldstream. When Coldstream left to teach at the Slade School of Art in 1949, Uglow followed him and studied there until 1954. His talents were quickly recognised, winning the Slade's prize in figurative painting.

Uglow's commercial success developed slowly. He took on multiple part-time teaching jobs, including at the Slade, where he remained associated with for the rest of his life. Although linked to a circle of artists that included Michael Andrews and Lucian Freud, Uglow's distinctively meticulous approach to painting set him apart and established him as one of the most important twentieth-century painters.

During his lifetime, Uglow served as an Artist Trustee at the National Gallery, and was a Fellow of University College, London, and an Honorary Member of the London Institute. His works are held in major international private and public collections including the Tate, Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), National Museum of Wales, and the Arts Council.

About Catherine Lampert

Catherine Lampert is an independent curator and art historian. She has curated numerous exhibitions at the Hayward Gallery, the Royal Academy of Arts, and the Whitechapel Gallery, where she was director from 1988 to 2001. Lampert has held a longstanding connection to the work of Euan Uglow, having previously organised two exhibitions dedicated to the artist at Whitechapel Gallery. She has written extensively on individual artists as diverse as Auguste Rodin, Frank Auerbach, Hurvin Anderson and Tunga, and is the author of Uglow's catalogue raisonné *Euan Uglow. The Complete Paintings* (Yale University Press, 2007).

About MK Gallery

Since opening in 1999, MK Gallery has developed a reputation as one of the UK's leading public art galleries, commissioning and presenting British and international art. Programming multiple major exhibitions a year, MK Gallery is the only visual arts organisation within a 40-mile radius that commissions and showcases innovative and high-quality international contemporary and modern art.

The Gallery has an outstanding track record of presenting critically acclaimed and high-quality exhibitions, including shows by Archigram, Vivian Maier, Nasreen Mohamedi, Piranesi, Ingrid Pollard, Paula Rego, George Stubbs, and Andy Warhol. Its international partnerships provide a connection between Milton Keynes and the wider world, channelling ambitious ideas and artistic excellence into the region.