



TOP TIP

Use a good quality acrylic such as Winsor & Newton. There will be little colour shift from wet to dry

Matthew Snowden

Wild places are “food for the soul” and painting them is “like a pilgrimage” says the acrylic artist. “The difficulty, preparation and time getting there is part of the attraction.” This passion for painting outdoors began early, but Matthew didn’t come to his now trademark impasto acrylic style until later in his career. “I had always admired texture in paintings,” he says. “I can trace this back to a childhood holiday in the late 1970s. My father stumbled on the gallery of artist George Deakins at Chapel House studio in Dunster, Somerset, and came out with three landscape paintings. Two were experimental impasto oils.”

These paintings hung in the living room but it wasn’t until the 1990s that he inspected them with a magnifying glass. “There was an area that had missed the paint. It was made up of gravel and sand, and had been glued to the board,” he explains. “The paint had been dragged and scraped

over the top with a brush and palette knife.” Inspired, he began to collect, wash and sieve gravel shell and sand, and experiment gluing and gessoing it to boards, eventually switching from oils to acrylics for practical reasons.

Matthew’s ‘no fear’ attitude defines his style, mixing and applying paint to canvas with a huge selection of palette knives. “I have roughly five duplicates for each style of knife, mostly on the larger size,” he says. “When I am in the middle of painting and switching colours, I don’t have to clean knives. It keeps me in the zone.”

His subject and style come together for *Downpour Runoff, Idwall*, which depicts the incredible transformation in the mountains after a deluge. “It’s what makes the mountains beautiful as the streams come alive.”

Matthew’s latest exhibition is at the Thackeray Gallery in London, from 16 January to 2 February 2018.

www.matthewsnowden.co.uk; www.thackeraygallery.com >

ABOVE *Downpour Runoff, Idwall*, acrylic on canvas, 80x120cm