



Studland Beach

Over the years Colin has developed the ability to finish a painting quickly, which is vital in responding to these ever-changing weather patterns. Sunsets are especially challenging, he says. 'You set up an hour beforehand and work on a painting and then when the sun sets you may find you put the original painting that you started to one side and paint a very quick study of the last moments before dark. It's a moment gone and you're desperately trying to get it down.'

Colin divides his time between painting on location and working on large paintings in the studio and believes that each activity feeds into the other:

'When I am working outside I feel I can capture a life and freshness that is hard to replicate in the studio, but the studio allows me to work on a painting for much longer periods and build up layers of paint. After a spell of working outside, I have accumulated a body of work, some of which I want to take further and develop in the studio. If I have been working at home for a long time, I find my paintings start to become mannered and contrived and it is then that I know it is time to go out painting again to view first hand the landscape that inspires me.'

For Colin, photographs have their place, but only as a point of reference: 'I find photographs help capture some of the details of a scene but, in terms of overall tone, colour and light for working on a large studio painting, I find the small painted studies I do are a better reference.'

Like most artists, he is self-critical: 'There is inevitably a selection process that goes on from what I produce and it is not always easy to predict what will be successful and what will end up being painted over. Often paintings that I have worked on for ages annoyingly don't work and the quicker ones are more

successful. Sometimes I think it doesn't look any good, put it to one side, then look at it again and think "I did capture something". A lot of my work is like a useful sketchbook/diary for me to revisit.'

His oil paintings have established a loyal following and been snapped up by the rich and famous including novelist and former MP Edwina Currie. Four of his paintings have also been purchased for the House of Lords permanent collection.

- For more information visit: [www.colinwilley.co.uk](http://www.colinwilley.co.uk) and [www.facebook.com/colinwilleyart](http://www.facebook.com/colinwilleyart)

Reflections at Golden Cap

