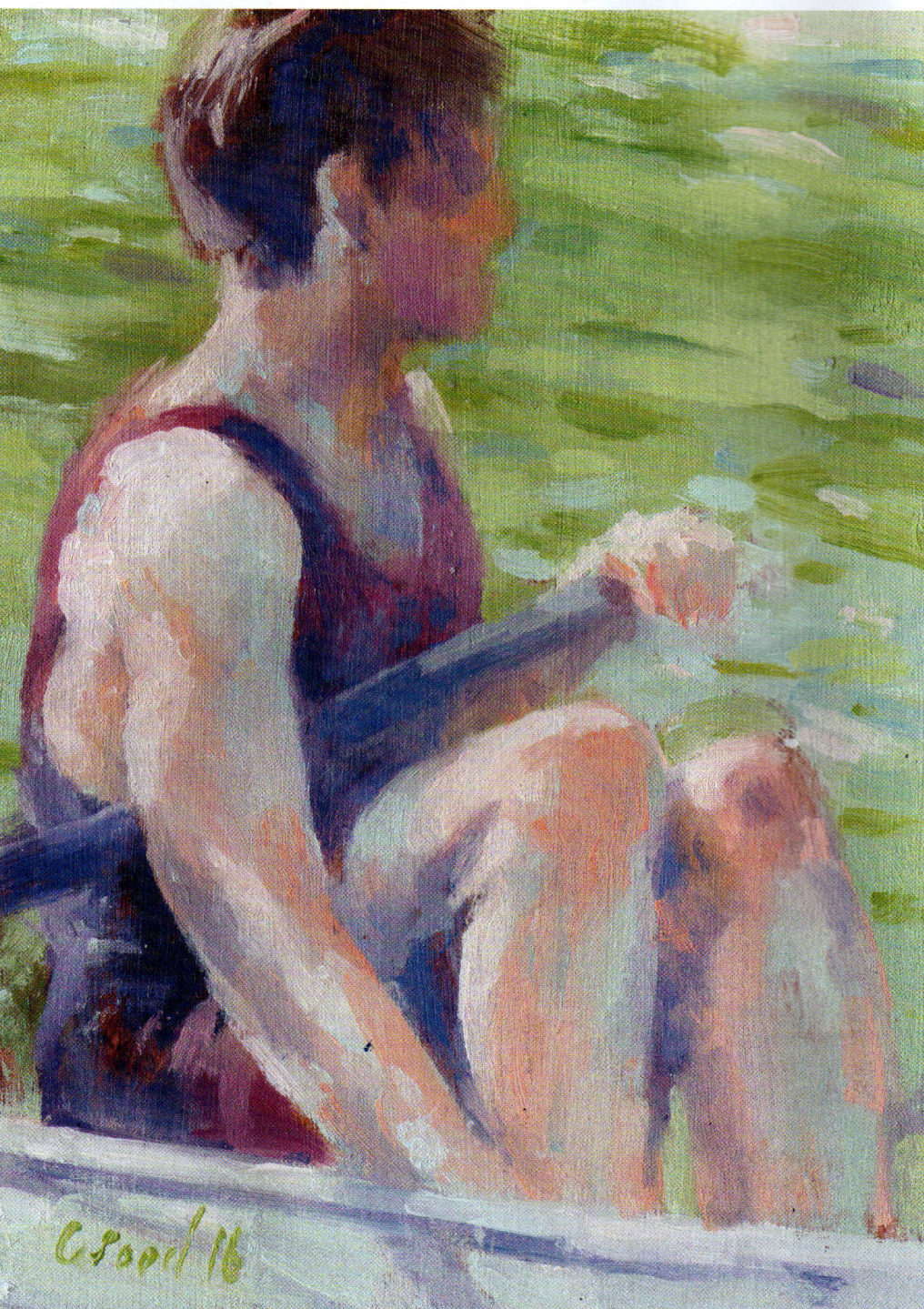


Online gallery

Jane Stroud's selection of works from our PaintersOnline gallery

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What an image of English summertime this painting by David Wood conjures. David's painting captures the moment perfectly. Although photography plays a part in his work, there is an obvious understanding of both the human form and the play of light born of many hours painting and sketching on the spot. If you would like to see more of David's work, post a comment or upload your own images to our free online gallery, visit www.painters-online.co.uk



Originally from Liverpool, David Wood gained a degree in illustration, but followed more of a fine art career. He spends his time working towards exhibitions and teaching oil painting in Cambridge where he now lives. He's been painting in oils and watercolour for over 30 years, and found the inspiration for this summer scene just ten minutes away from his home. "Living in Cambridge close to the river, I see this kind of scene on a daily basis," he writes. "I use colour to emphasise the quality of light and to highlight the sublime beauty of both the natural world and the human form, which is one of my passions. Paintings, such as this, are really portraits of a particular moment, capturing rowers in action or in more reflective moods. I am very interested in capturing single moments in time, either of a particular time or day, atmosphere or a figure in activity. Regular themes include rowers on the River Cam (such as this one), the circus, landscapes and other figure motifs. The quality of light can also be a supplementary theme in the painting.

"*Summer Rower* is one of a series of paintings with the same *motif*. Most, like this, are small paintings (just 18x12cm) and all done in oil paint. Sadly, the rowers move across the river too fast to capture them in pencil or paint so photography becomes a necessary tool. I spend a lot of time sketching and painting *en plein air*, especially by the river so this helps to add life to a painting in a way that photography alone cannot. I decide on the composition initially and use photography as reference, before creating a colour study to help me figure out the values and colour harmonies."

David teaches adults at Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge as well as private one-to-one sessions in watercolour, drawing and oil painting. To see more of David's work visit www.art-davidwood.co.uk

◀ David Wood *Summer Rower*, oil, 7x4½in. (18x12cm)