Stoneman Collins

A Moment with Jemma Powell

EXHIBITION

4 - 8 December 2026 | 10am–5pm
9 - 18 December 2026 by appointment
The Viewing Room, Castle Cary, Somerset

PRIVATE VIEW

3 December 2026
6–9pm | Invitation only

OVERVIEW

An intimate showcase of new and unseen woodland paintings by British artist Jemma Powell, from her collection *'Forest for the Trees'*, at The Viewing Room, Castle Cary, 4 - 18 December 2026.

Following the recent *Curated at Chaffeymoor* exhibition in Somerset, Stoneman Collins presents Jemma Powell, the Oxfordshire-based artist whose distinctive landscapes capture the shifting atmosphere of the natural world.

Rooted in a recent residency at Wilcote Art, Powell's latest work marks a subtle change in perspective. Immersed in the ancient Wychwood Forest, her gaze turns inwards to the trunks and branches around her, beneath a changing canopy where glimpses of sky and fleeting variations in light continually reshape the scene.

"In the woods where the light is constantly shifting and breaking through the trees, I find myself responding to those changes in colour almost before I've had time to think about them."

Jemma Powell

THE PAINTINGS

Painting en plein air, Powell captures the woodland in her characteristically rich, earthy tones and energetic brushwork. At Wilcote, her response to colour has become increasingly instinctive, moving beyond direct observation towards the memories and feelings a place evokes.

This immediacy gives the paintings their vitality. Her compositions invite a more expansive way of looking, where the overall impression takes precedence over individual elements.

"I'm not particularly interested in the detail of a single leaf. I see the woodland as a whole, almost in a flash. That way of looking is mirrored in my life — trying to see things in their entirety rather than becoming caught up in the smaller parts. The light changes and I have to look again, quickly, before everything becomes something else. Perhaps for me it has always been about seeing the woods, rather than the trees."

Jemma Powell

JEMMA POWELL

A former actress, Powell has exhibited in numerous sold-out solo shows, including within the *Curated Series* with Stoneman Collins. Her collaborative exhibition *Tracing Time,* with Leah Wood, was included in Forbes' list of ten exhibitions to see during Frieze week in 2025. Her residencies and commissions include work with Mandarin Oriental and Pearl at The Beaumont in London. Her work is held in esteemed private collections internationally.

On the day Jemma Powell titled this exhibition *'Forest for the Trees',* her partner, the singer-songwriter Jack Savoretti, unknowingly wrote a song and poem on the same theme of not seeing the forest for the trees. It epitomises their creative connection and their way of seeing the bigger picture, whether together or apart. *'Forest for the Trees'* is not only an ode to nature but a metaphor for synchronicity, love and partnership.

"The one you know as me"

I found my prayer.
When I need it,
It's always there.
I've Tasted your tears.
My lack of courage
brought to life your greatest fears.
I wish I could protect you
from the one you give your love to.
You think the lies he tells are true,
but I know him better than you. (do)
When love is as blind, it can't be free.
You'll never see
the forest for the trees.
If I could only I could help release,
you from the one you know as me.

Jack Savoretti

Stoneman Collins

We are thrilled to be exhibiting Powell's latest work *'Forest for the Trees'*, which embodies our belief that the most successful collections are not only visually compelling, but deeply connected to the places they inhabit, as well as the people and stories they represent.

"Jemma is an artist who understands what Thomas Hardy called the 'hieroglyphs' of nature.

These paintings transport us, with a sincerity and reverence, to the ancient British forest, - a secret world where nature dances and plays a game of hide and seek to those who care to observe its complexity and infinities. Jemma Powell is our guide. Through a rhapsody of colour, light and rhythm, she reveals nature as she finds it - dialled up, at a time of seasonal change.

The fleeting sensation and murmurations of the woodland hint to decay and renewal. Through these paintings we are at one with a rhythm that is as ancient as time itself."

Lizzie Collins

The exhibition takes place at The Viewing Room, Castle Cary, the contemporary art salon of Stoneman Collins, founded by art advisors Georgia Stoneman and Lizzie Collins. Since opening in June 2023, the space has hosted curated exhibitions, events and collaborative projects, drawing on their combined 40 years of experience in the art world.

A Moment with Jemma Powell offers an opportunity to see the exhibition, meet the artist and discuss personal collections and curatorial ambitions with Georgia and Lizzie.

Stoneman Collins

A Moment with Jemma Powell

EXHIBITION

4 - 18 December 2026
The Viewing Room, Castle Cary, Somerset

Exhibition hours
10am–5pm daily

Stoneman Collins

Stoneman Collins was founded in April 2025 by art advisors Georgia Stoneman and Lizzie Collins. Stoneman Collins specialises in forming art collections in major build and renovation projects across sectors to deliver a world class visual experience. Georgia and Lizzie bring a meticulous eye together with their 40 years combined art world experience as gallerists and art advisors and wide network of contacts to offer a seamless, high-level service.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Private View:
Thursday 3 December 2026, 6–9pm | Invitation only

Exhibition:
Friday 4 December – Friday 18 December 2026 | 10am–5pm daily

Venue:
The Viewing Room, Castle Cary, Somerset

Admission: Free

ENQUIRIES

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PRESS

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