



National  
Trust



Mapping  
Contemporary  
Art in the  
Heritage  
Experience

# Walking, Looking and Telling Tales

by Mark Fairington

Cherryburn  
*2 June – 4 November 2018*

# Foreword

by Andrew Burton, Professor of Fine Art at Newcastle University

Over the summer at National Trust's Cherryburn you can discover fascinating and beautiful new artworks by the contemporary painter Mark Fairington.

Mark's paintings have been specially commissioned as part of a research project *Mapping Contemporary Art in the Heritage Experience*, which explores how art might change your experience at a heritage site. This project continues at nearby Gibside, where you can find new sculptures and installations created by artists Fiona Curran and I.

As a group of researchers from Newcastle and Leeds Universities we are interested in finding out whether creating and siting new art in heritage places can change the ways in which these important places are understood and enjoyed.

Many artists shape their careers around making work for such special places, but we know little about its impact. How does art in heritage places change visitor experiences? Do we love it, dislike it, or just ignore it? This is what our project sets out to discover.

We hope you enjoy these artworks which have been specially created for Cherryburn.

We welcome your involvement in this research: tell us what you think via Twitter

 @mcahe\_NU #mcahe

For more information about this project, please visit <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/mcahe/>

Right: *Vaulting Man*, Mark Fairington  
Oil on panel, 10x8cm

Cover: *The Hanging Swing*, Mark Fairington  
Oil on panel, 16x12cm



Between June - November 2018 artist Mark Fairington is exhibiting a new series of paintings at Cherryburn.

The paintings reflect the place, the Northumbrian landscape and the work of printmaker Thomas Bewick, best known for his natural history books including *A History of British Birds* published in 1797. These celebrated illustrated books pointed Bewick's art towards the wider world and made his name known far beyond Northumberland, but the heart of his subject matter was profoundly local.

Bewick gathered information by walking and his work became a record of the people he saw. Mark has been inspired by a series of walks that he has made around Cherryburn and Northumberland. The new paintings include miniature landscapes that look at Bewick's countryside from a contemporary viewpoint.

Whilst people do feature in the images, the focus of the art is the natural environment that was such an inspiration to Bewick 200 years ago.

Below: *Hindhope Linn*, Mark Fairington  
Oil on panel, 18x26.5cm





*Two Trees*, Mark Fairington  
Oil on panel, 21×19.5cm



Mark sketching the landscape at Cherryburn

Here are Mark's thoughts on the paintings:

*"The paintings for Walking, Looking and Telling Tales were made specifically for the half parlour at Cherryburn. From the beginning of the project I knew that I wanted them to sit within the niches on the wooden wall that divides the half parlour from the corridor.*

*They had to be small acknowledging the scale of Bewick's prints and I wanted them to reflect the landscape of Northumberland. They depict views and scenes that I have encountered on my walks, while at the same time referencing the history of landscape images and the nostalgia that this invokes. The Hanging Swing is the painting that probably most captures this idea."*



Mark Fairington

## About the artist

Mark Fairington is Reader in Painting at the University of the Arts London. His work has resulted principally from research projects with museums and museum collections. Mark has worked with and exhibited at the Imperial War Museum, the Oxford Museum of Natural History, the Natural History Museum and the Horniman Museum London.

He has received many awards for his work and has exhibited throughout Europe.

Please visit Mark's website for more detailed information

[markfairington.com](http://markfairington.com)

Read Mark's blog for his Cherryburn commission

[walkinglookingandtellingtales.com](http://walkinglookingandtellingtales.com)

I have seen him draw a striking likeness on his thumb-nail in one moment', wipe it off with his tongue, and instantly draw another.' *Some Account of the Life, Genius and Personal habits of the Late Thomas Bewick, the celebrated Artist and Engraver of Wood, By his friend John F.M Dovaston, Esq. A.M., of Westfelton, near Shrewsbury (c1830)*

These portraits were made on Bewick's 500-mile walking tour of Scotland.

Portraits by **Thomas Bewick**  
Courtesy of The Trustees of the British Museum





Above: *Branch Man*, Mark Fairington  
Oil on panel, 11x15cm

## Mark's paintings are located in the half parlour in the birthplace

These new artworks are part of a larger research project *Mapping Contemporary Art in the Heritage Experience* led by Newcastle and Leeds Universities working in partnership with the National Trust, Arts&Heritage, English Heritage and the Churches Conservation Trust. *Walking, Looking and Telling Tales* is part of Trust New Art, the National Trust's programme of contemporary art inspired by the places we look after.

Other commissioned artworks can be seen through the summer at:

**Gibside** 12 May – 30 September

**Cherryburn** 2 June – 4 November

**Holy Trinity Church** 6 July – 23 September, weekends only

**Belsay Hall** 21 July – 16 September

Please visit <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/mcahe/> for details.

 @mcahe\_NU #mcahe

With special thanks to the Cherryburn team for their support for this project

### Cherryburn

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