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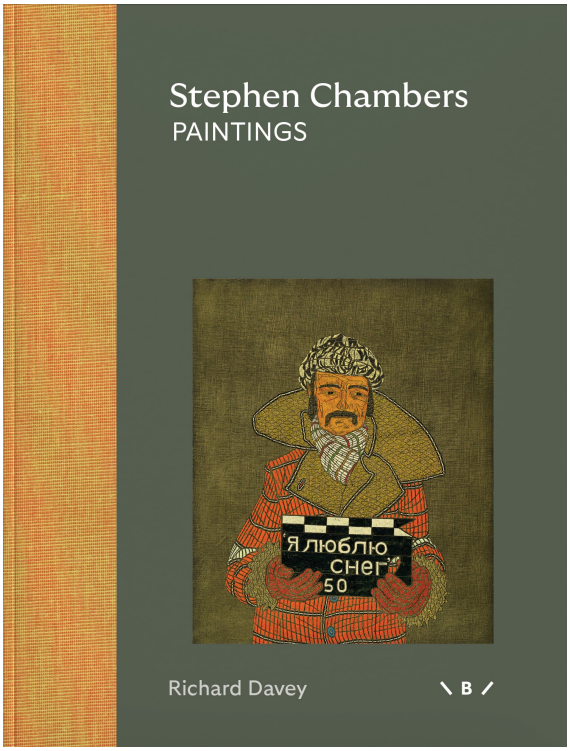

Stephen Chambers – Paintings

Richard Davey

Rod Mengham

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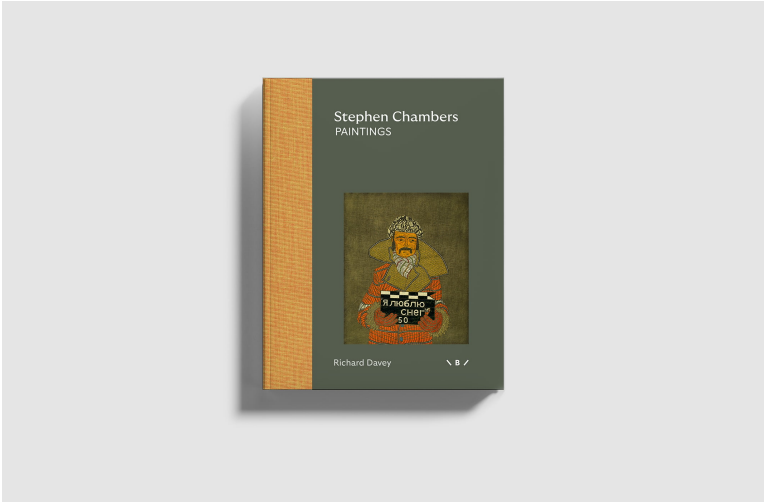
- The definitive monograph on one of Britain's foremost contemporary painters
- Stephen Chambers RA represented Britain at the Venice Biennale
- Reveals how literature, mythology, history, politics and everyday life combine within Chambers' richly imagined visual world
- Celebrates an artist renowned for his extraordinary command of color, poetic symbolism and narrative invention

Stephen Chambers RA is one of Britain's most celebrated contemporary painters, renowned for his distinctive figurative language and narrative-based paintings. Spanning four decades of practice, this definitive monograph offers a comprehensive survey of Chambers' major series, including *The Court of Redonda*, featured at the Venice Biennale.
Chambers' work draws inspiration from leading writers, thinkers and artists. These include Renaissance painters such as Piero della Francesca; *The Gangs of New York* by Herbert Asbury and *Gangs of New York*, directed by Martin Scorsese; the satirical cartoons of James Gillray; socio-political thinkers such as Angela Davis; and iconic writers such as James Baldwin. Through an extraordinary command of color, rhythm and composition, his narrative-based paintings are packed with wit, social observation and commentary that is both powerful and poignant. Featuring newly commissioned essays alongside the artist's own reflections, this landmark publication celebrates Stephen Chambers' enduring contribution to figurative painting and establishes his place as one of the finest painters of his generation.

Stephen Chambers RA (b. 1960) is a British artist and Royal Academician whose painted and printed works are celebrated for their seductive use of colour, pattern and existence between the categories of abstract and figurative. Chambers studied at Winchester School of Art and trained at Central Saint Martins, before graduating with a masters degree from Chelsea School of Art in 1983. He has won many awards and scholarships including a Fellowship at Winchester School of Art, a Mark Rothko Memorial Trust Travelling Award and a Rome Scholarship. Stephen Chambers' minimal, decorative works have been exhibited widely with solo shows held at institutions including The Royal Academy of Arts, London; Kettles Yard, Cambridge; Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool and Flowers Gallery, London. He was elected a Royal Academician in 2005 and received an Honorary Fellowship from Downing College in 2016.

Richard Davey holds a PhD in Theology from Nottingham University, where he examined the sensibilities of faith in contemporary British artists. He is a Senior Research Fellow in Historical and Critical Studies at Nottingham Trent University, where he engages in research that connects art with religious practices and beliefs. As an art writer, Davey has authored numerous catalog essays for contemporary British painters and has been a contemporary art critic for the Church Times for about a decade. He has written monographs on various artists, including Tess Jaray and John Newling, and has contributed essays for significant exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Rod Mengham is Professor of Modern English Literature in Modern English at the University of Cambridge and an Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College. He is the author and editor of books on 19th and 20th century fiction, 20th century poetry, violence and Avant Garde art, and language and cultural history. In the last 20 years, he has published numerous art critical essays and has also worked as a freelance curator. He was Curator of Works of Art at Jesus College between 2003 and 2018.



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