



Martin Finnin
THE GRAMMAR OF CLOUDS



Martin Finnin
THE GRAMMAR OF CLOUDS
Painting & Sculpture 2022-3

John Martin Gallery





A World Made of Things, 2022
Oil on Linen, 63 x 47 ¼ ins, 160 x 120 cm

The Grammar Of Clouds

“The process of painting has its initial dance steps, layering, adding and washing out shapes but with sculpture it was very different, I had no idea at all what to do”

Martin Finnin’s new exhibition, *The Grammar of Clouds*, brings together paintings from the last two years alongside four sculptures begun in 2021 and recently completed. Over the last twenty years, Finnin has evolved a highly distinctive approach to abstraction in which forms exist in their own space as if floating in a measurable void. To switch from this imaginative space to three-dimensional sculpture proved such a significant step for the artist, that he took the decision to work on them in isolation from his painting, moving to Italy without any painting materials, so he could simply focus on the demands of this new medium. As such they form a very distinct and separate body of work

If there is one uniting theme it is the silent presence of Italy, its landscape, and the spirit of early Italian painting. Begun in Ireland and “continued in the back of a van in the middle of an Italian summer” Finnin’s abstract forms become markers in space much like Uccello would use distant cypresses to define spatial depth. Painting from a makeshift studio looking over the Tuscan hills, his canvases seem to follow the patterns and rhythms of the countryside. “Even though they are abstract paintings”, he says, “I see them as imprints or reconstructions of the Italian landscape”. His sculptures began from “playing around with papier-mâché” and then moulding wax, which led to a two-week residency at a foundry. “It was the smell of the hot wax in the early stages and the use of both hands and most of my fingers in the making process that drew me in. Painting is mostly one handed so it’s the newness and clumsiness alongside the odour and feel of the wax that attracted me to making bronze sculptures.”. Setting out to Italy to focus on sculpting, his first works were abstract linear sculptures “but they just wouldn’t work... Then one day in frustration I suddenly broke up one of these sculptures to start again when a cat who often visited me in the studio walked onto the table and something switched in my head and I began to make a cat. It felt strange. Instead of looking at reality and abstracting it like I do with my painting, these sculptures began to mimic reality. “



On The Prowl, 2022

Bronze, Edition of 8, 17 ¼ x 3 ½ x 7 ¾ ins, 44 x 9 x 20 cm



The Grammar of Clouds, 2023
Oil on Linen, 47 ¼ x 59 ins, 120 x 150 cm



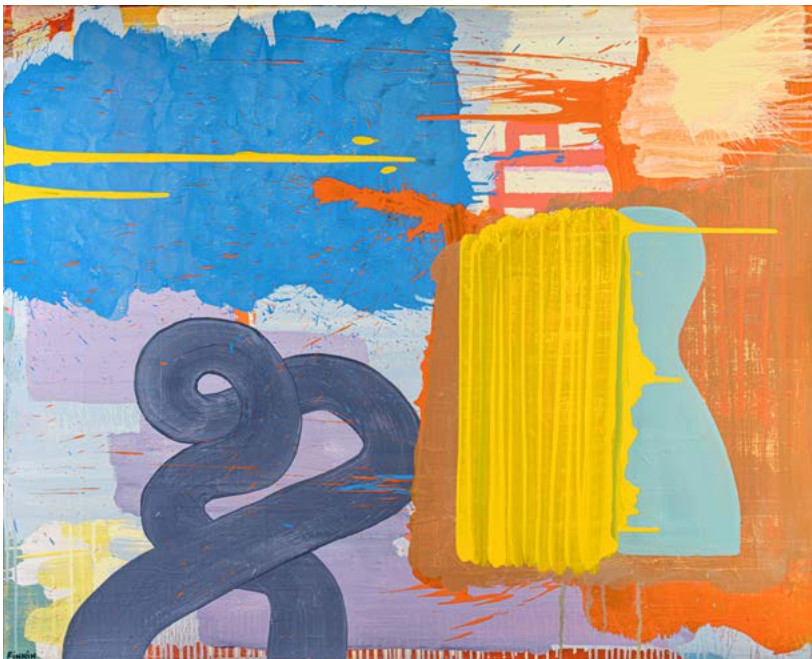
London Spring Morning - Money in my pocket, 2023
Oil on Linen, 23 ½ x 31 ½ ins, 60 x 80 cm

*'This group of paintings was started in the spring in
Ireland and continued in the back of a van in the middle of
an Italian summer.'*

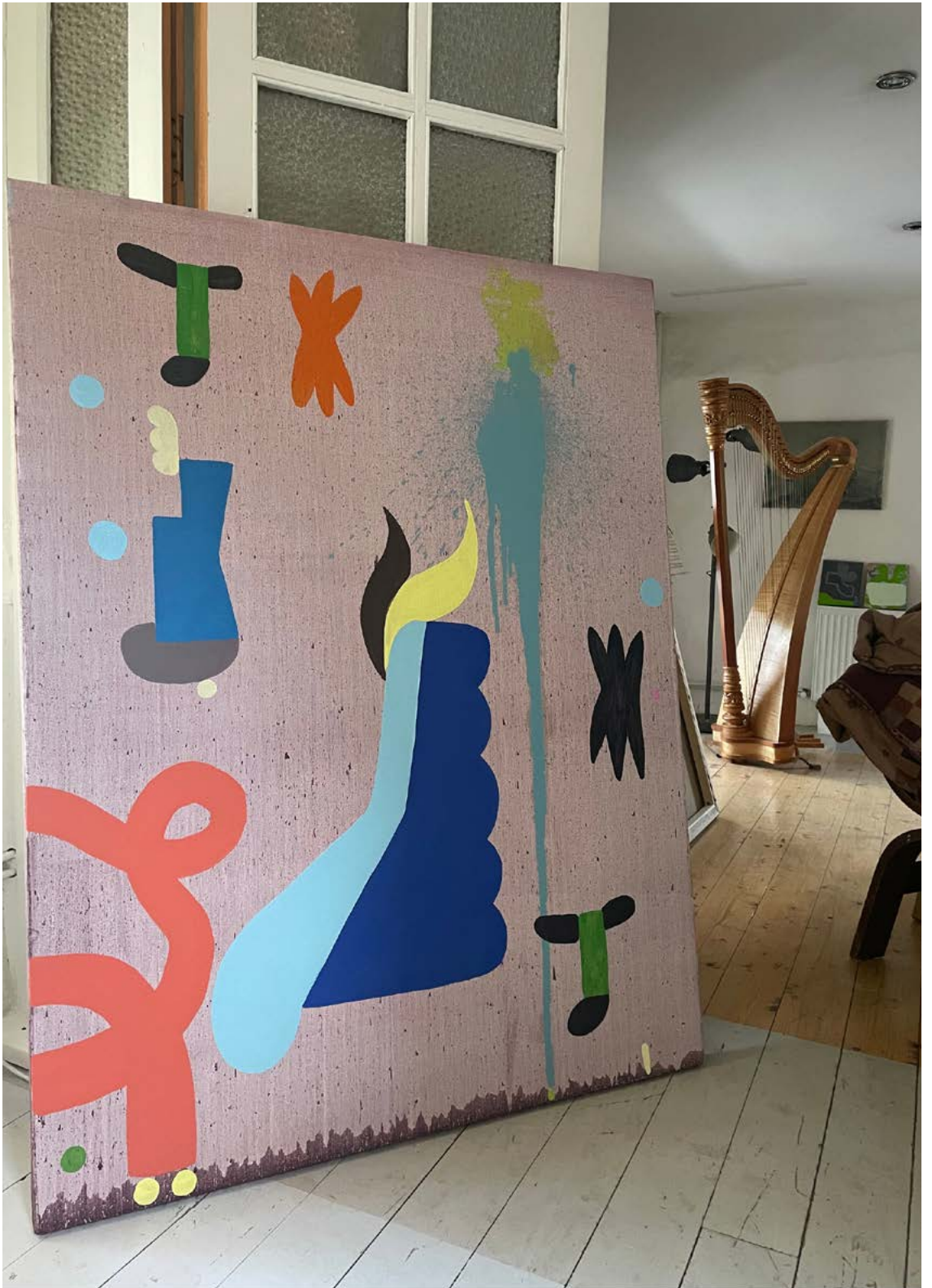




Melt the Vast Magic, 2023
Oil on Linen, 23 ½ x 31 ½ ins, 60 x 80 cm



Whirlwind Along Beach, Italy, 2023
Oil on Linen, 39 ¼ x 47 ¼ ins, 100 x 120cm

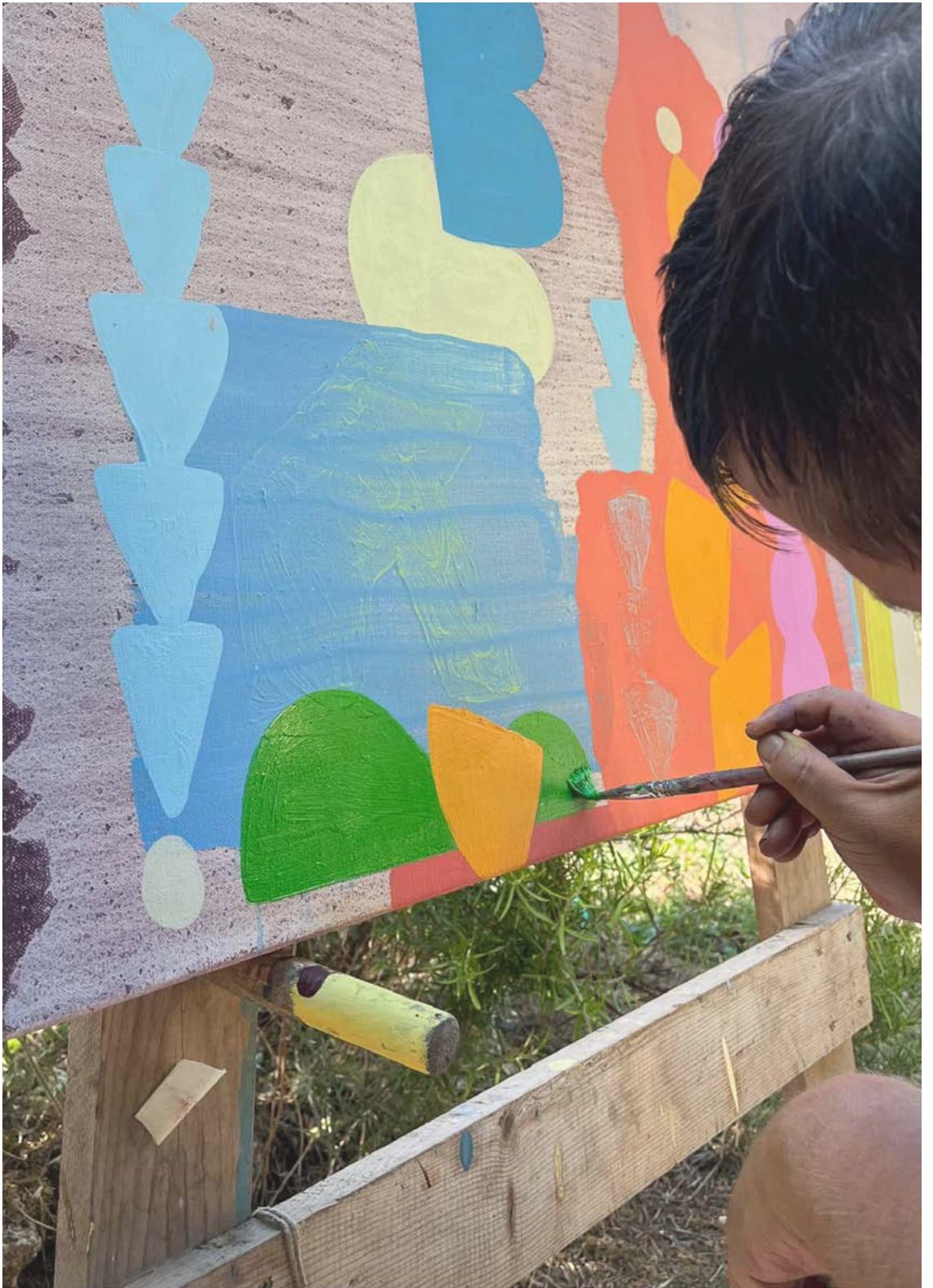




The Dog Walker, 2022
Bronze, Edition of 8, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins, 31 x 7 x 47 cm



The Afternoon Hung On One Shoulder, 2023
Oil on Linen, 39 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 47 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins, 100 x 120 cm





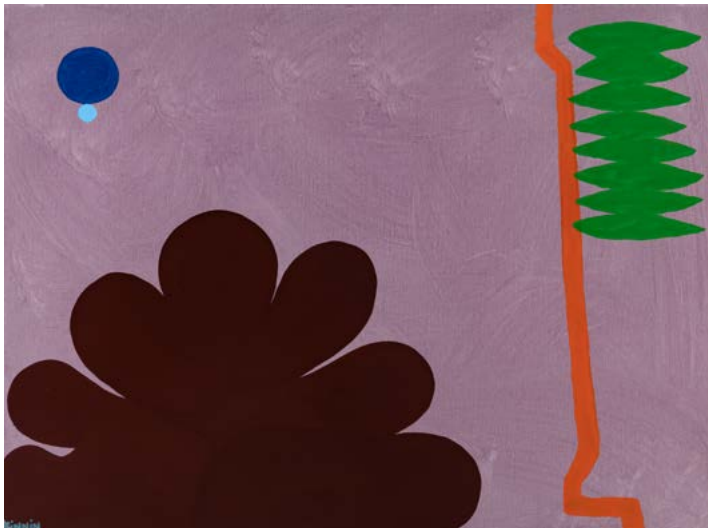
Dirty With Kisses and Sand, 2022
Oil on Linen, 31 ½ x 39 ¼ ins, 80 x 100 cm



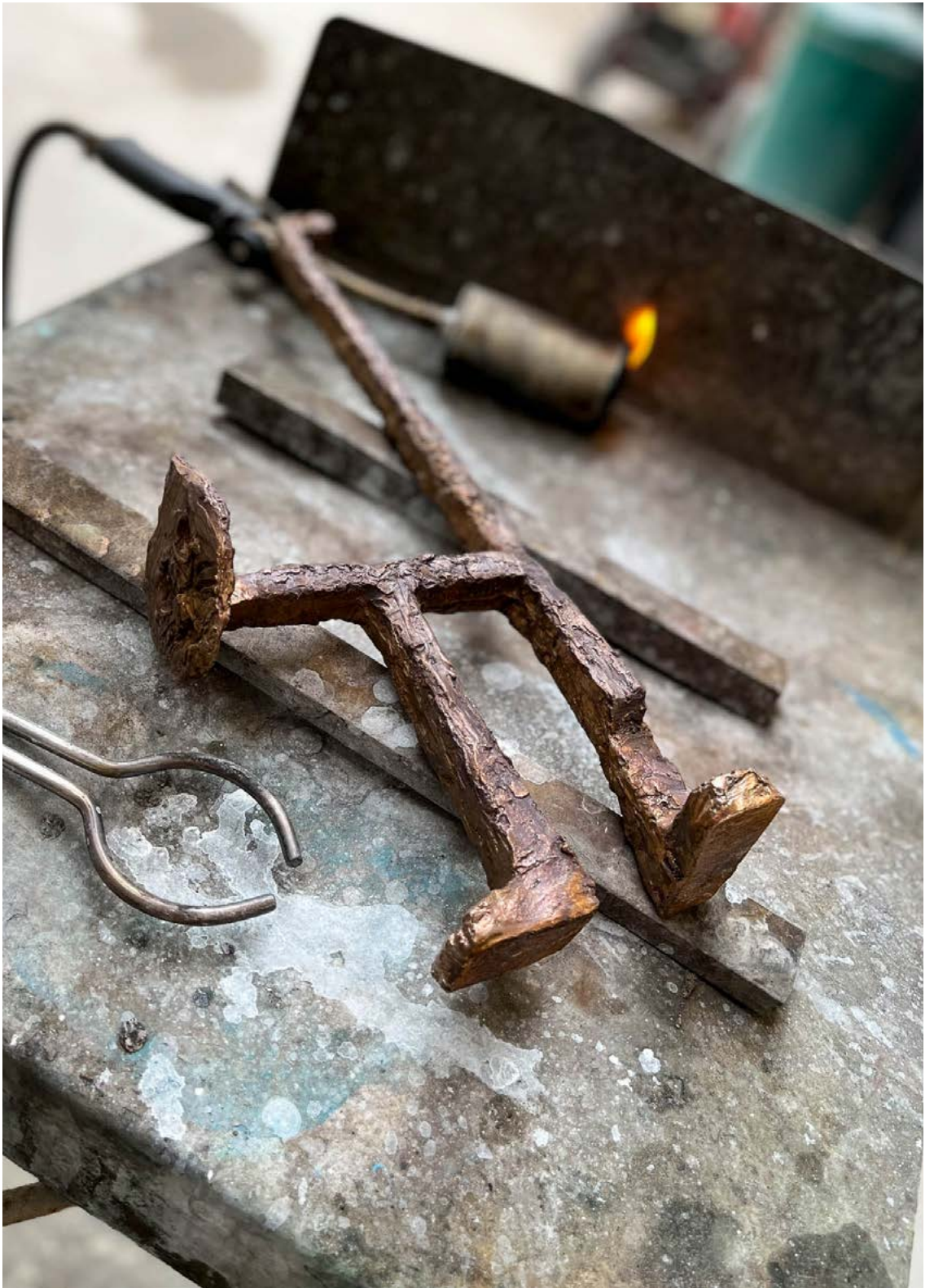
Does Water Dream of Falling, 2022
Oil on Linen, 47 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 70 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins, 120 x 180 cm



I Chiselled Away at the Evening, 2023
Oil on Linen, 23 ½ x 31 ½ ins, 60 x 80 cm



The Night Square and Blue, 2022
Oil on Canvas, 23 ½ x 31 ½ ins, 60 x 80 cm





Cactus Rodeo, 2022
Bronze, Edition of 8, 14 ¼ x 9 x 8 ¾ ins, 36 x 23 x 22 cm



Wind, Wood, Water, 2022
Oil on Linen, 47 ¼ x 70 ¾ ins, 120 x 180 cm



Every Cell's a City, 2022
Oil on Linen, 59 x 47 ¼ ins, 150 x 120 cm



The Cyclist, 2022
Bronze, Edition of 8, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins, 20 x 10 x 12 cm



A Breeze Jumps Over a Mountain of Lead, 2022
Oil on Linen, 23 ½ x 31 ½ ins, 60 x 80 cm



Realities of Structures, 2022
Oil on Linen, 15 ¾ x 23 ½ ins, 40 x 60 cm



Lemon, Not Just a Strange Beast, 2022
Oil on Linen, 47 1/4 x 70 3/4 ins, 120 x 180 cm



One More Bite of the Dog, 2023
Oil on Linen, 47 ¼ x 63 ins, 120 x 160 cm

E- Catalogue printed for the exhibition
The Grammar of Clouds by Martin Finnin
John Martin Gallery,
38 Albemarle Street, London, W1S 4JG
26 April - 26 May 2023
Monday to Friday 10 to 6pm

All images copyright Martin Finnin
Photography Jorg Köster
Enquiries: Laura Campbell, laura@jmlondon.com
John Martin Gallery
T +44 (0)20 7499 1314 info@jmlondon.com
www.jmlondon.com
Instagram and Facebook updates @johnmartingallery



