

## Nunnery Gallery celebrates Doreen Fletcher's east London | the artist who gave up painting only to be rediscovered nine years later



Doreen Fletcher | *A Retrospective* installation shot, photo Rob Harris

### Doreen Fletcher | *A Retrospective*

24 January – 24 March 2019

[Install shots now available](#)

Bow Arts presents a retrospective of works by painter Doreen Fletcher, curated by The Gentle Author, taking place at the Nunnery Gallery from 25 January to 24 March 2019.

For twenty years Doreen Fletcher painted the streets of east London until, discouraged by lack of recognition, she gave up in 2004. Only a chance meeting with The Gentle Author – author of popular blog *Spitalfields Life* – brought her painting to public attention in 2015. For the first time this retrospective reveals the full breadth of Fletcher's achievement between 1974 and 2018, showing the largest selection of her paintings together, and including many previously unseen pictures from private collections.

Fletcher's atmospheric urban landscapes reveal the drastic changes of east London's streets across just three decades, remembering the businesses long forgotten and the buildings that have since been knocked down. A superb colourist, Fletcher applies her rigorous technique to recording the drama of the city in compelling and authoritative images – stating ***“I am an artist interested in the pockets of life others ignore”***.

After abandoning her brush in 2004 for nine years, she has since begun painting once again, encouraged by audiences' reactions and the art world's overdue recognition of her works. Technically brilliant, her works are memories for many who walked and lived on the streets of east London in the 1980-90s – areas that have now changed so much they are barely recognisable.

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Fletcher's retrospective at the Nunnery Gallery coincides with publication of a monograph of her work by Spitalfields Life Books (published November 2018). The exhibition includes a lively event programme, including an In Conversation with the artist and walking tours of Fletcher's east London.

Fletcher's work was exhibited at Townhouse Spitalfields in 2016 and 2017, and most recently was shortlisted for the first Evening Standard Contemporary Art Award for a painting shown in the National Gallery.

## Events

In Conversation with Doreen Fletcher and The Gentle Author  
Wednesday 30 January 7pm (doors 6pm) £3/5

First Thursday Late Night Opening  
Thursday 7 February 6-9pm FREE

Fiona Atkins discusses Doreen Fletcher  
Wednesday 20 February, 7pm (doors 6pm), £3/5

Explore Doreen Fletcher's East End Walking Tour  
Saturday 2 March, 11am (meet at Nunnery Gallery) £3/5

First Thursday: The Gentle Author's East End Vernacular  
Thursday 7 March, 7pm (doors 6pm), £3/5

Explore Doreen Fletcher's East End, Walking Tour  
Saturday 16 March, 11am (meet at Nunnery Gallery) £3/5

The Life & Works of Dorothy Rendell (1924-2018)  
Thursday 14 March 7pm (doors 6pm) £3/5

## ENDS

### For interviews and images contact

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### [Download the press release and images here](#)

Web: [www.bowarts.org](http://www.bowarts.org) | [www.twitter.com/BowArts](https://www.twitter.com/BowArts) | [www.facebook.com/bowarts](https://www.facebook.com/bowarts)

### Notes to editors

Exhibition: Doreen Fletcher | A Retrospective  
Private View: Thursday 24 January 6-9pm  
Dates: 25 January – 24 March 2019  
Admission: Free  
Opening Hours: Tues to Sun, 10am – 5pm  
Address: Nunnery Gallery, Bow Arts, 181 Bow Road, London E3 2SJ  
Travel: Bow Road Tube Station, Bow Church DLR, Cycle Superhighway 2  
Contact: 020 8980 7774 / [nunnery@bowarts.com](mailto:nunnery@bowarts.com)  
URL: [www.bowarts.org/nunnery/doreen-fletcher-retrospective-2019](http://www.bowarts.org/nunnery/doreen-fletcher-retrospective-2019)  
Image: Doreen Fletcher – "Commercial Road Whitsunday", 1989  
#DoreenFletcher

### About Bow Arts

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Bow Arts is an arts education charity that provides affordable creative workspaces for over 500 emerging artists. Alongside this, Bow Arts manages one of the country's most exciting education programmes, which takes world-class artists into 90 schools to improve the lives and learning of children and young people. Bow Arts runs the Nunnery Gallery, a public gallery that supports a diverse range of high quality exhibitions and events as well as the delivery of a public arts programme. Established in 1995, Bow Arts holds an important place in east London which is fast becoming known as London's Artist Quarter.

[www.bowarts.org](http://www.bowarts.org)