

The Reach Gallery Museum Abbotsford March 10–June 12, 2016

The Reach Gallery Museum Abbotsford
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[Paintings. Selections]
Amelia Alcock-White : the ripple effect.

Catalogue of an exhibition held at the Reach Gallery Museum Abbotsford
from March 10 to June 12, 2016.

Curated by Laura Schneider.
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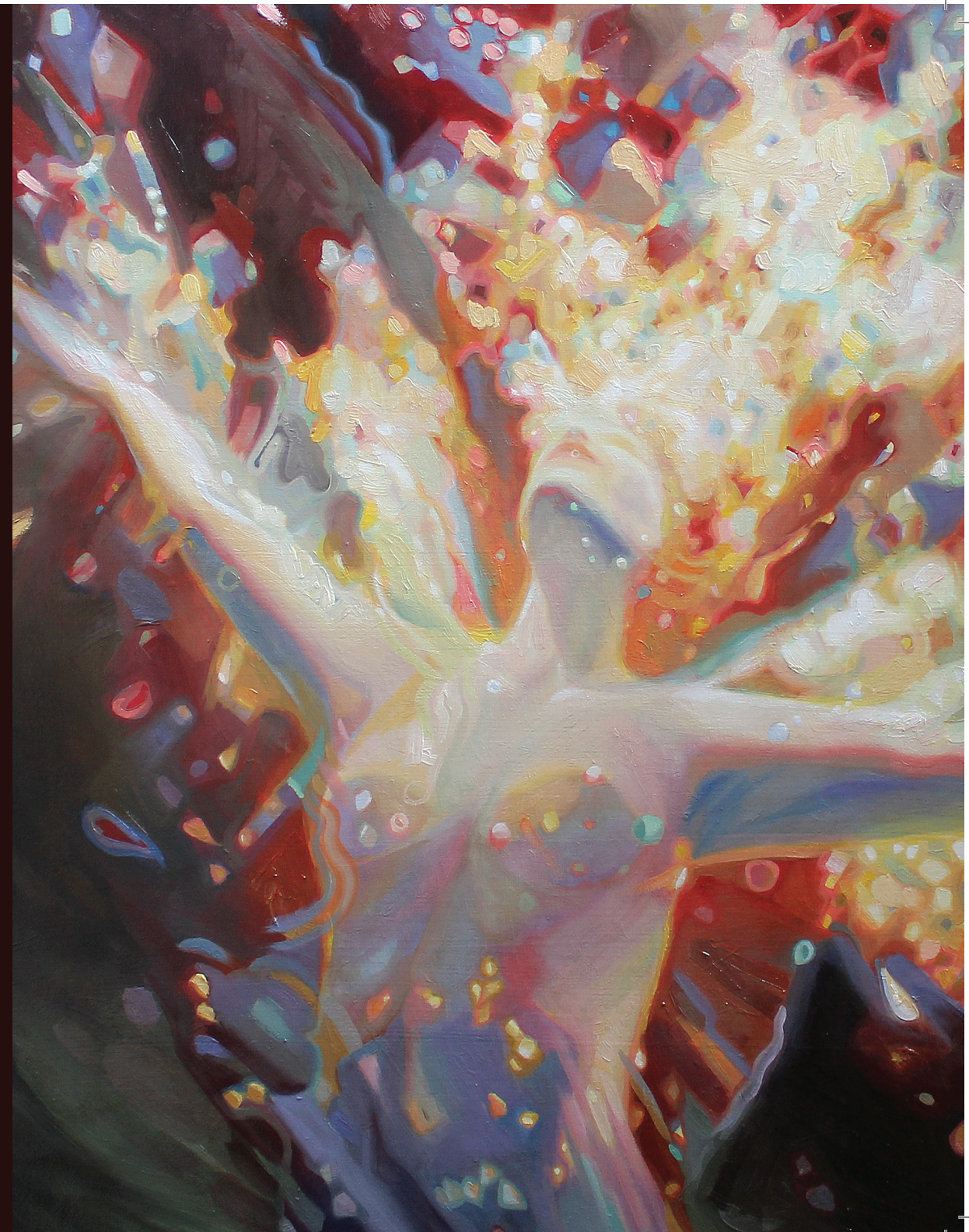
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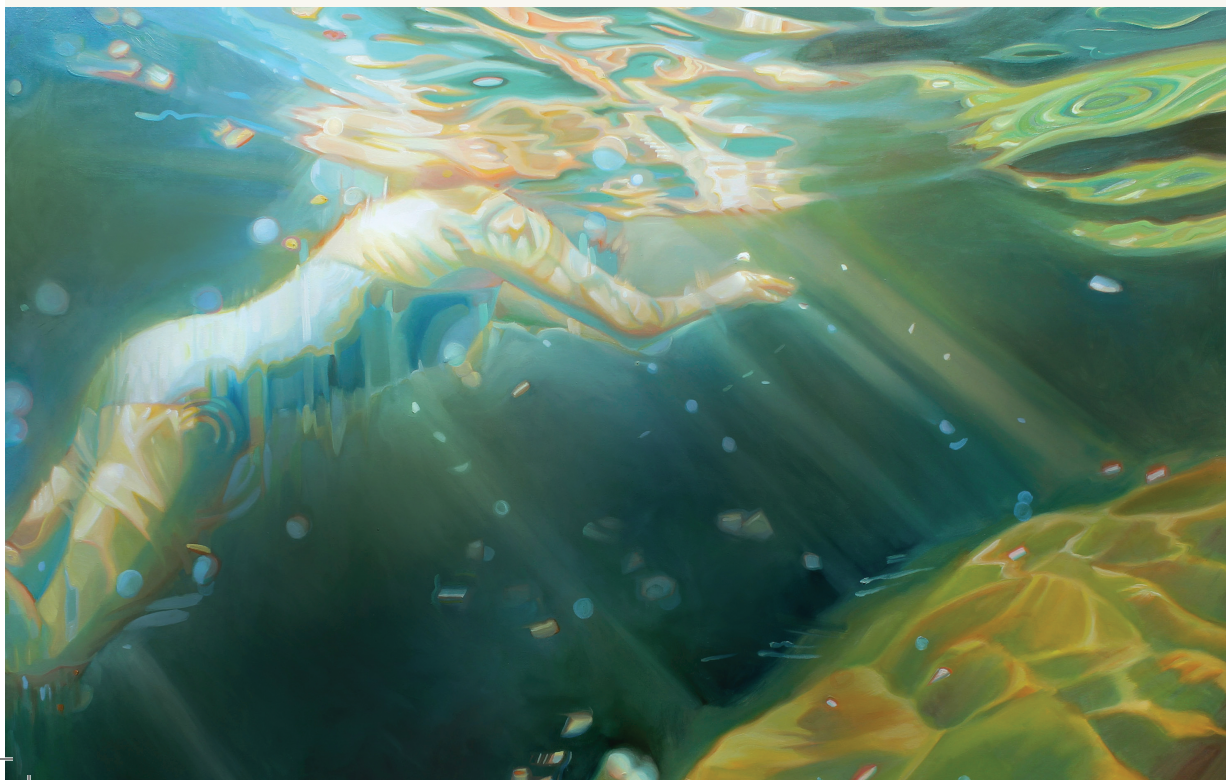
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Front: Amelia Alcock-White, *Apogee* (detail), 2016, oil on canvas, 36" x 48".

Inside left (top): Amelia Alcock-White, *Taxi* (detail), 2015, oil on canvas, 40" x 60".

Inside left (bottom): Amelia Alcock-White, *Desolation Sound* (detail), 2015, oil on canvas, 40" x 60".





Seen from the air, bodies of water are little more than abstract patterns. Oceans become intricate arrangements of colour and light. Rivers are loose, meandering lines weaving through the land. Islands are irregular ellipses of flattened colour. From this perspective it is difficult to imagine the complexities of rivers, lakes, oceans and streams as they truly are; the delicacy of their ecological condition, the certitude of their rhythms, the worlds that they contain.

Amelia Alcock-White's recent paintings contain something of this paradox. They are decorative surfaces and mystical portals. Figurative and familiar on one hand—conjuring the dock at the family cottage, the benign and lazily paddled river, the shimmering afternoon at the seaside—these paintings are also dramatic and highly stylized fantasies. Where the artist's settings are not so easily relatable, we are transported into an ambiguous marine reverie where subjects are submerged in a pristine, glittering underwater universe or held rapturously in the embrace of vibrant decorative patterns.

Alcock-White's work uses water almost exclusively as a metaphorical backdrop for human experience. It is a thematic device through which the artist articulates her personal and spiritual journey and explores her relationships with place, family, and the environment. Water is the universal bond, connecting us with ourselves, each other and the natural world in the artist's images of hope for transformation and renewal.

Laura Schneider, Curator

Amelia Alcock-White is a contemporary painter from Vancouver, B.C. She studied art at VIU, ECAD and Columbus State University and has been recognized for her work with scholarships, awards and residencies. Since her first solo exhibit in 2004 she has shown in NYC, LA, Vancouver, San Francisco and Toronto. Her work is represented in public and private collections internationally and has been featured in notable art publications.

Amelia Alcock-White: *The Ripple Effect*
MARCH 10–JUNE 12, 2016