



PETER  
HOWSON

# BABYLON

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*“And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the great, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.”*

Revelation of John the Divine 17:5 King James Bible

*“Highly intelligent people are mostly atheists”*

Professor Richard Dawkins

*“Alas, what can they teach and not mislead, ignorant of themselves, of God much more and how the world began and how man fell.”*

Milton

*“Whose souls, albeit in a cloudy memory, yet seek back their good, but like drunk men know not the road home.”*

Boethius

## OPENING STATEMENT

I am delighted to be showing my work in the Maclaurin again. It's a great gallery and I always get a warm feeling being here. It feels like home.

My life has changed so much during the last few years. Working away in the studio gives me joy once more. There is laughter and fun in my family home. I am able to enjoy being with my daughter Lucie and look forward every day to walking my two little dogs. To put it simply, my demons are still there, but I am able to cope. I have known since early childhood that I was a bit mad. I thought it was just me and I used my art to keep me sane. When I wasn't working bad things started happening. Keeping a balance in life was always a problem. Going to the edge of the cliff was a recurring compulsion. This is the reason for my vast output of

work. There are too many things and ideas swirling around in my head.

I have to let them out in paintings and drawings in order not to go crazy.

Slowly, I had this revelation – it's not just me – the whole world is mad! Just open your eyes and your ears and you will realise that humanity is truly insane. Yes, of course I believe that people can be good and capable of love and compassion. But there is a side of us that seems to crave oblivion. One doesn't have to go to the Oracle of Delphi to see that the world has not got better. However, this does not mean that love will not eventually conquer evil. It constantly does and ultimately will win through, but maybe not in this dimension.

Babylon still rules over us and this is the theme of my exhibition. I cannot easily explain each work in words. The purpose of art is to enable people to see beauty amidst all the suffering. Art opens the door to a new landscape of imagination and wonder. One of the amazing things I learned in the war zone of Bosnia was that the closer you are to death the more alive you feel. It concentrates the mind on what really matters. In AA it comes down to three things. Total honesty regarding your faults, tuning in to a Higher Power and helping others. I struggle with all of these things but my art helps me to keep on track.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this exhibition.

Peter Howson  
January 2016



THE MACLAURIN GALLERY  
30TH JANUARY - 6TH MARCH 2016

Front cover painting: detail of Babylon 2015.

# 1. BABYLON

(oil on canvas 2015 8ft x 6ft / 244cm x 183cm)



## 2. SEMEI

(pastel on card 18in x 24in / 46cm x 61cm)



### 3. MAATH

(pastel on card 18in x 24in / 46cm x 61cm)



#### 4. ZOROBABEL

(pastel on card 18in x 24in / 46cm x 61cm)



## 5. MELCHI

(pastel on card 18in x 24in / 46cm x 61cm)



## 6. SARUCH

(pastel on card 18in x 24in / 46cm x 61cm)



## 7. CAINAN

(pastel on card 18in x 24in / 46cm x 61cm)



8. MALELEEL

(pen & ink 10in x 8in / 25cm x 20cm)



## 9. ESROM

(pen & ink 10in x 8in / 25cm x 20cm)



10. SETH

(pen & ink 10in x 8in / 25cm x 20cm)



## 11. COSAM

(pen & ink 10in x 8in / 25cm x 20cm)



12. ER

(pen & ink 8in x 8in / 20cm x 20cm)



### 13. JORIM

(pen & ink 8in x 8in / 20cm x 20cm)



14. ESLI

(pen & ink 8in x 8in / 20cm x 20cm)



15. LAMECH

(mixed media 8in x 8in / 20cm x 20cm)



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[www.peterhowson.co.uk](http://www.peterhowson.co.uk)



Austerity

# SOLO EXHIBITIONS FROM 2002 - 2015

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- 2002 The Third Step, Maclaurin Gallery, Ayr
- 2002 The Third Step, Flowers Central, London
- 2003 Stations of the Cross, Flowers East, London
- 2004 Inspired by the Bible, New College, Edinburgh
- 2004 Stations of the Cross, St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow
- 2005 Christos Anneste, Flowers New York
- 2005 New Howson Stock, Flowers East
- 2006 Peter Howson Retrospective, Kunsterein, Lingen, Germany
- 2006 The Last Supper, Corby Art Gallery, Aberdeen
- 2007 Andrew - Portrait of a Saint, City Art Centre, Edinburgh
- 2008 Harrowing of Hell, Flowers East, London
- 2009 Famine, St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, Glasgow
- 2010 Tilting at Windmills, Flowers, Kingsland Road, London
- 2010 Night of the Soul, Flowers Cork Street, London
- 2011 Saint John Ogilvie, St Andrews Cathedral, Glasgow
- 2012 Redemption, Flowers New York
- 2013 From Death to Life – Maclaurin Art Gallery
- 2015 Demokratia - Flowers, Kingsland Road, London



Arts at  
**Rozelle**



south  
**AYRSHIRE**

The Maclaurin Art Gallery

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