

Text by Paul Amey

'Country Tunnels'

The extraordinary achievement of Nick Bodimeade's new paintings is that he's taken the experience of travelling by vehicle through summer country roads and distilled it to make paintings that compel you to stand still and contemplate. He's controverted the stroboscopic flash of cool shade mile after mile into painted tunnels of greenness that invite you to both travel with him and to just stand and stare.

These are not travelogue paintings by any means. You might wonder where these country roads are. Sussex perhaps, near the artists home? They are universal and familiar because he's showing us something we've seen, yet like the best artists he also tells us something we don't yet know. For his interest is in the dynamic patchwork of gestural marks and the composed shapes that both balance and jar the picture plane. Blue tarmac that points the way combined with emerald greens and lemon yellows that he has seen and believed.

And in his concentrated effort, something magical emanates. For we are travelling down the road but not in some ghastly road of life cliché. We're in the painting with him looking down a most extraordinary telescope that shows a simple scene and the Universe together.

The paintings are quite small but they're really big.