



Michelle Cobbin's inspiration for this body of work was initially inspired by a visit to Grimes Graves, a cluster of Neolithic flint mines in Suffolk, which are close to where she grew up and where her ancestors are from.

This visit provoked thoughts about home, belonging, human occupation, and what's in our bones and psyche. It also inspired her to examine more closely the very same raw materials – flint and chalk – that she steps over daily on the downland edges of Brighton, her home since the 1980s.

Idle pondering turned to sharper thoughts about things buried, inwardly and outwardly. Sometimes these things are left alone and undisturbed. Sometimes they are retrieved, brought out into the light, perhaps resettled or reused in some way.

In both the material and psychological senses, the task of 'bringing up' to the surface incurs a cost: to our planet in the form of extraction; to ourselves in the form of powerful feelings re-emerging. Yet with the latter, the process can feel like a sweet release or a 'returning home'. It might be that something of significance or beauty – a potent gem or a forgotten memory – has been recollected.

Three boundaries were instated for the creation of this work. First, pare down to the essence. Second, limit the palette. Third, source no new materials for the project. These lent a sense of constraint, which is an abiding characteristic of all work conducted underground.



Light Inside The Dark

Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm, £ 1650



Limelight

Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm, £ 1650



Salvaged

Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 80 cm, £ 1400



Lustre

Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 80 cm, £ 1400



Recollection

Acrylic on canvas, 76 x 76 cm, £ 1400



Excavated

Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 cm, £ 750



Artefact

Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 40 cm, £ 895



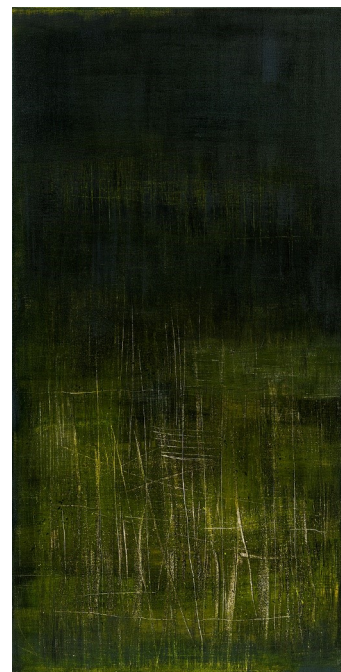
Digging Deep

Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 40 cm, £ 895



Hidden Treasure

Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 40 cm, £ 895



Traces

Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 40 cm, £ 895



Deep Dive

Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 30 cm, £ 750



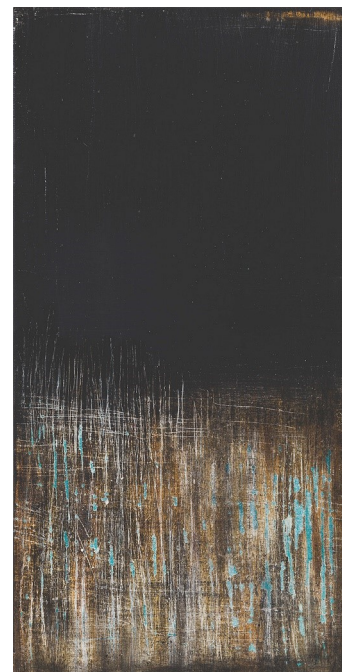
Reclaimed

Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 cm, £ 1150



Time Worn

Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 30 cm, £ 750



Revelation

Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 30 cm, £ 750



Flinty I

Acrylic on wooden panel, 20 x 20 cm, £ 195



Flinty II

Acrylic on wooden panel, 20 x 20 cm, £ 195



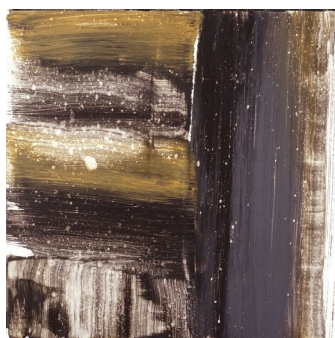
Flinty III

Acrylic on wooden panel, 20 x 20 cm, £ 195



Flinty IV

Acrylic on wooden panel, 20 x 20 cm, £ 195



Flinty V

Acrylic on wooden panel, 20 x 20 cm, £ 195