

# FACING IT

PORTRAITS OF THE INFLUENTIAL, RICH AND POWERFUL



DAVID BANNISTER

*Fire Horse*

**WHAT LIES BEHIND THE FACE?**

**FACES SPEAK WITHOUT WORDS**

**WHAT DO YOU HEAR?**



# FACING IT

PORTRAITS OF THE INFLUENTIAL, RICH AND POWERFUL

**ORIGINAL PAINTINGS AND TEXT**

**BY**

**DAVID BANNISTER**

aka

**BANI**

*Fire Horse*

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## **BEHIND THE FAÇADE**

Portraits are more than just capturing a face – and David Bannister, who has drawn and painted portraits throughout his career, has become increasingly interested in how portraiture can be used as a tool for charting the inner essence and psychological make-up of the subject, a peep into their inner world. In particular, some of the world’s political élite and other leading lights have come under his scrutiny including a blurred, opaque Boris Johnson, a casually-pullovered Bill Gates and an incendiary Donald Trump.

In this series of portraits, though we may have no difficulty in recognising the identity of the well-known figures – some indeed are almost universally recognisable – the artist has set out to unmask his subjects, scrape away at the surface and uncover something of the true, unguarded person behind their public image. We have seen how many big-time leaders have won the power game by nefarious intent, and it is therefore not surprising that some of these portraits appear flawed and unsettling.

On the pages facing each portrait, alongside a partial reverse image, the artist switches from brushwork to verbal – offering his own bite-size wordplay on each subject.



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KISSINGER	A STATESMAN OF POWERFUL OFFICE
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BUSH JNR	PATRIOT UNDER THE FLAG
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CORBYN	A PROUD REBEL
MAY	WIND BLOWING IN
BORIS	TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS
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THUMBS UP! HANCOCK	WINGED, SOULLESS AGENT
CRISSCROSSED WHITTY	HEROIC UNDERTAKER
PROF FERGUSON	A WIZARD WITH FIGURES
GATES	HANDING OVER PAPER MONEY
FAUCI	LEADING A GROUP
TRUMP	MAKING AMERICA GREAT

The work is the result of an enquiring mind and innate need to discover the truths about history, the present events unfolding and the motivations and plans of the people that hold powerful positions in our lives today. The need for us to reach out and begin to pry off the masks of deceit and pretence from the public faces of these notable individuals is evermore imperative. I hope this book will, in some way, nudge and provoke the reader's response to find out a little more about the hidden truths we are being distracted from.

Talking about Facing It, David Bannister 2021

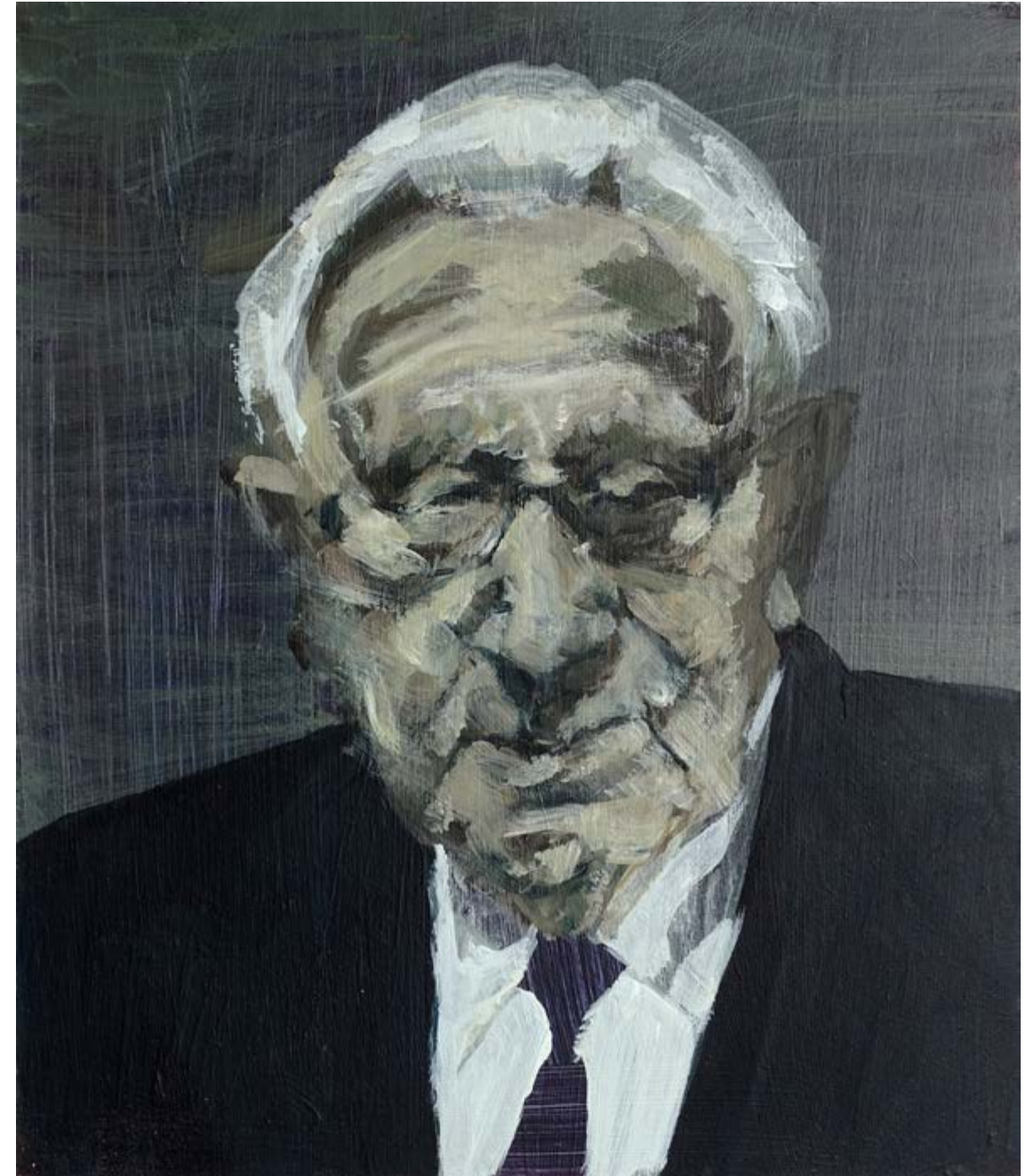


**KISSINGER**

*Acrylic on board  
300 x 265 mm  
2018*

**A STATESMAN OF POWERFUL OFFICE  
SHAPER, MANIPULATOR  
ENABLER AND INSTIGATOR?  
A CLUBBER AT CLANDESTINE  
PARTIES IN THE GROVE AND CRYPT?**

**AS AN OCTOPUS WITH LIMBS  
ENCOMPASSING THE GLOBE  
DEVOURING NATIONS AND PEOPLES  
WITH INTENT TO THROTTLE UP  
THE MACHINERY OF  
A NEW WORLD ORDER**







**BUSH JNR**

*Acrylic on board  
300 x 265 mm  
2016*

**PATRIOT UNDER THE FLAG  
FALLS DUMB  
NO FALL OUT  
AT GROUND ZERO  
BELIES THE STORY TOLD**

**WHISPERS OF TERROR  
IN THE SCHOOLROOM**





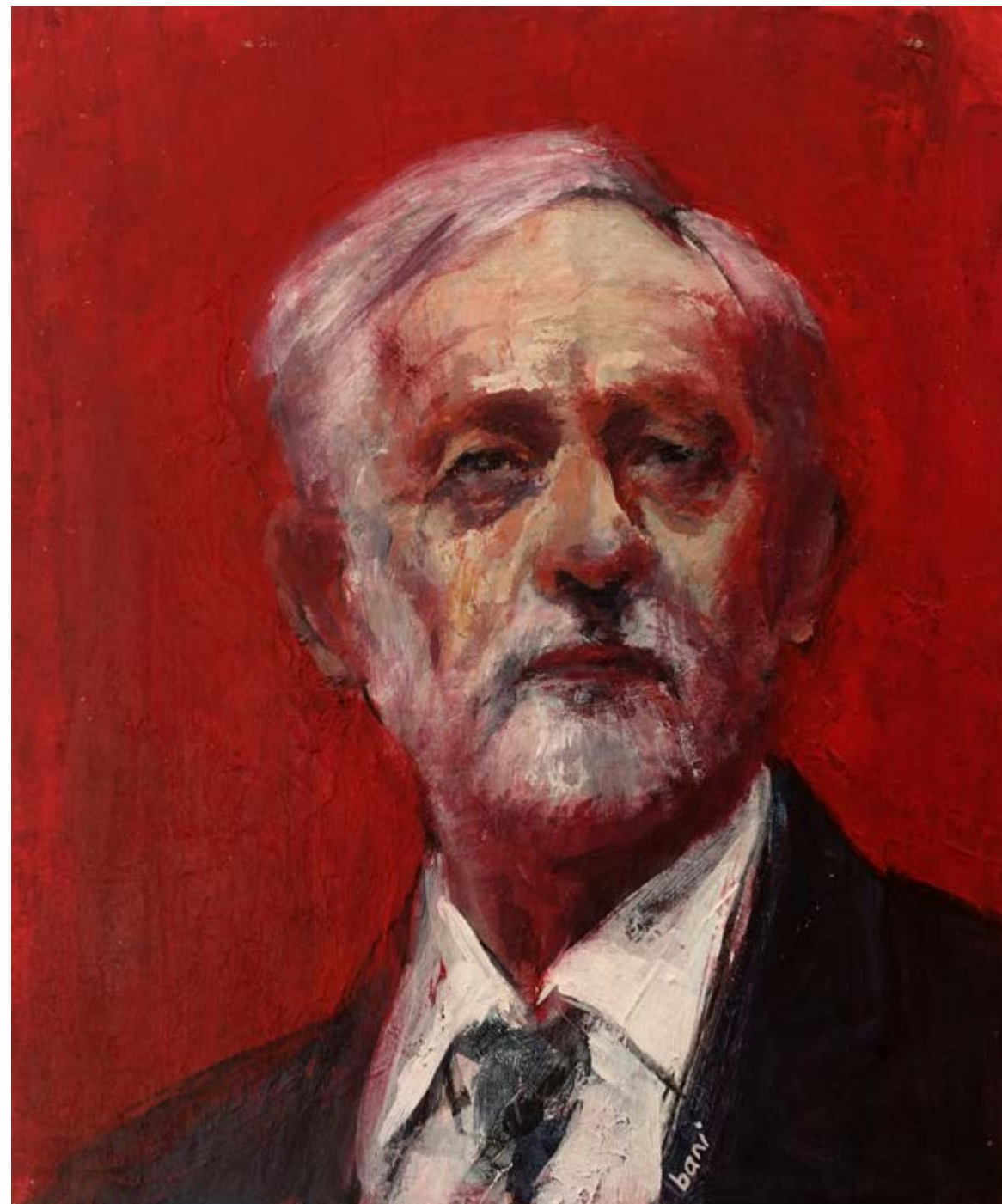


**CORBYN**

*Acrylic on board  
300 x 265 mm  
2018*

**A PROUD REBEL FOR  
PEACE AND EQUALITY  
BEDEVILLED BY  
THE PRETENSIONS OF  
SLEEPERS ROUSED**

**THE RED PARTY  
IN DISARRAY**







**MAY**

*Acrylic on board  
300 x 265 mm  
2018*

**WIND BLOWING IN.  
THE SOUND OF MUSIC  
WHOOSHING IN HER EARS**

**THE CLANKING OF  
A NECKLACE OF CHAIN  
TO THE RHYTHM OF  
A DISCO BEAT  
IN HONOUR OF  
THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE**



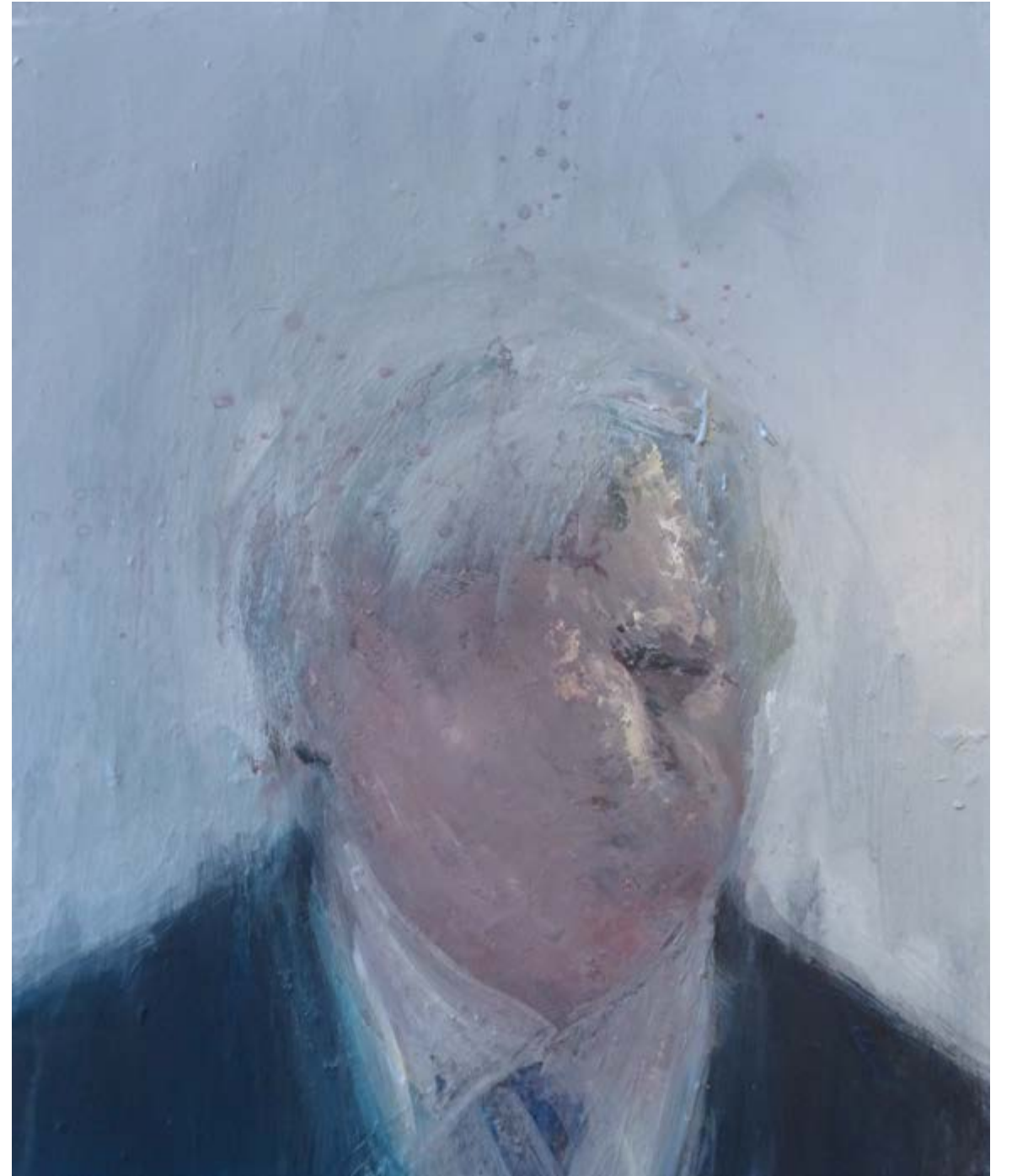


**BORIS**

*Acrylic on board  
300 x 265 mm  
2018*

**TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?  
MASQUERADING AS A BUFFOON  
TO DISGUISE CUNNING  
AND OPPORTUNISM?**

**SHIFTING FACE  
TO GET BREXIT DONE**







**THUMBS UP!  
HANCOCK**

*Acrylic on board  
460 x 610 mm  
2020*

**WINGED, SOULLESS AGENT  
OF THE UNION  
UNITED IN DIVIDING  
NATIONS WITH  
WITLESS EDICT  
GUIDED BY WISE MEN  
ALL BOUGHT AND PAID**





**GATES**

*Acrylic on canvas  
395 x 495 mm  
2020*

**HANDING OVER PAPER MONEY  
TO OPEN THE ENTRANCE  
TO HADES  
DARK IMAGININGS OF  
A SILICON GIANT  
SPENDING FORTUNES  
TO SAVE THE MANY  
IN RETURN FOR THEM  
TO SERVE THE FEW**







## DAVID BANNISTER

*Living artist*  
*Born 1966*

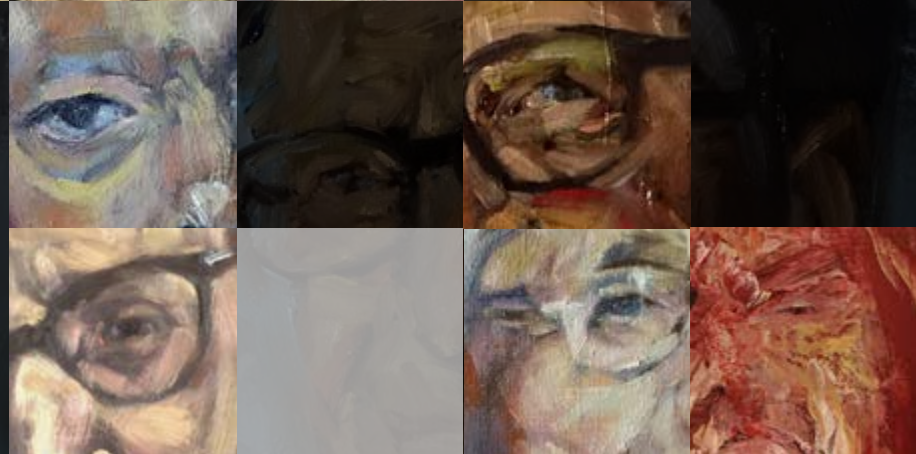
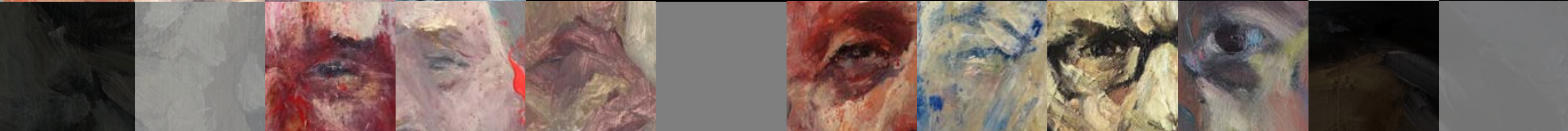
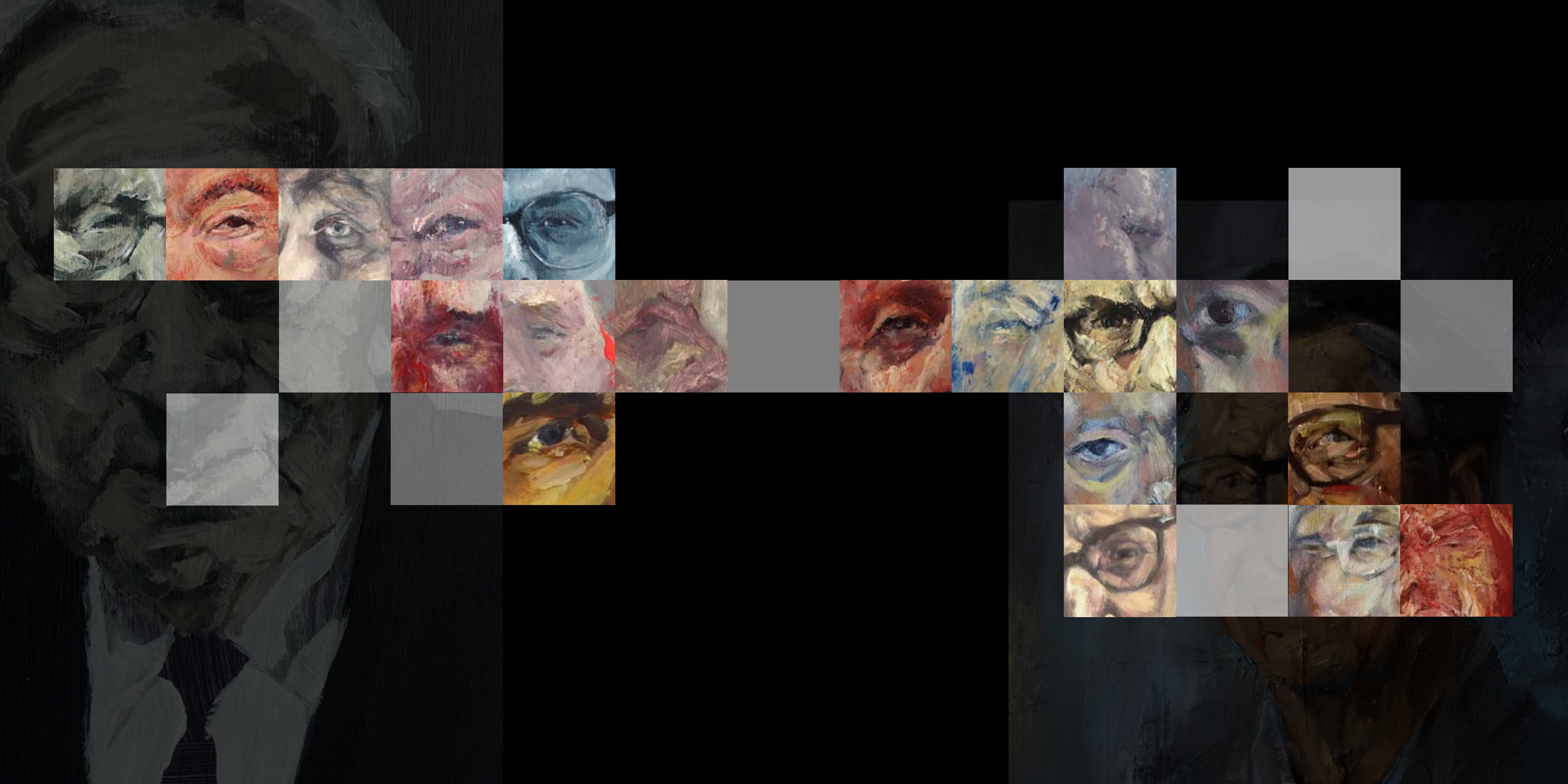
# BIOGRAPHY

David Bannister studied at Camberwell School of Art, graduating with honours in graphic design and illustration. Fine art also became important to him, and today he is perhaps best known as a landscape and seascape painter, technically complex, capturing the spirit and energy of nature, in both figurative and semi-abstract forms. He is equally skilled at portraiture. His paintings have featured in a number of solo and group exhibitions, and his work is much admired and collected. He has successfully undertaken many commissions.

He has travelled widely, sketching places he has visited and people he has met. He spent three years in Japan, finding inspiration for his art whilst teaching English and learning the Japanese language. He now lives in the borderlands of England and Wales. He enjoys the great outdoors and has had a parallel career as an occupational therapist. He is also a teacher of Tai Chi and Qigong. He runs popular art classes, and makes short experimental films.

In recent years David Bannister has broadened his subject matter. In particular, his growing interest in politics has taken him down some interesting by-roads, resulting in a series of portraits of politicians and well-known influencers that set out to capture their real self – their essence - for good or for bad. His preferred medium for this project is acrylics on board, the quick drying and broad brush strokes capturing the layers and nuances of expression in a remarkable and unforgettable way.







**This new book from David Bannister diverts from purely text bound publications about ‘things we should take notice of’ by presenting highly intuitive portrait studies of political and other leading humans on the planet. Those leaders can and have had some devastating effects on humanity and the life and workings of the planet, often for personal financial gain and status on the world stage.**

**Mostly we perceive only the surface in a portrait, i.e. what the person looks like, but David Bannister goes far deeper: all of the portraits in this book are highly suggestive of the sitter’s inner self.**

**Sue Miller, Artist**



Fire Horse

