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OPENING SHOT

DREAM CATCHERS

Andrew Cranston and Winifred Nicholson's paintings offer a moment of respite

The intimate domestic scenes in Andrew Cranston's paintings often centre on something slightly strange: a snake on the living-room floor, or a cat lying by a cheeseboard. In a new exhibition, titled Dreams of the Everyday, opening in Orkney this week (it later moves to Bath), the Scottish artist's ethereal works are paired with those by the late British artist Winifred Nicholson, another artist who painted the seemingly ordinary. "There is a resonance [between our work] that surprises me," says Cranston.

"Nicholson's work doesn't shout for attention, but quietly works its magic by holding you still, keeping you silent." In the show, which was a collaboration with designer Jonathan Anderson, Cranston's painting of a beach where two men are camped, one smoking and the other cooking eggs, sits in conversation with Nicholson's painting of a saucepan of water balanced on burning coals. Like a hazily recalled memory or dream, these vignettes take the viewer away from the churn of daily life for a moment. "It has nothing to do with nostalgia," Cranston says. His interest is in acknowledging "the power of the past to break into the present".

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Dreams of the Everyday is at The Pier Arts Centre, Orkney, from 21 June to 13 September, and The Holburne Museum, Bath, from 3 October to 11 January 2026



Left: *Gillies and Maxwell*, 2018, by Andrew Cranston