

# Reuben Colley



# My Birmingham

Catalogue 02

## My Birmingham

*I have been painting Birmingham for 12 years, and whilst the first collections documented the physical change of the city, over the years both my outlook on the city and my paintings have matured, and now they are completely personal, nostalgic, sentimental, elemental or maybe a touch cynical, this is the collection I have been waiting to paint.*

Reuben Colley 2012



**Aston Tavern** Oil on Canvas 117 x 92 cm



Aston Tavern (Detail)

### Aston Tavern

*I find The Aston Tavern to be quite iconic of modern times. It is a beautiful old building, backed up by the church and Aston Hall across the road. It must have been really quite nice at one time, yet now with the hoardings and barriers, the motorway imposing its dominance, and the boxy leisure centre and industrial units it really does look forgotten.*



**Our Patch** *Oil on Canvas 92 x 72 cm*



Our Patch (Detail)

### Our Patch

*Wastelands have interested me wherever I go, and have been a recurring subject in my paintings. I find them to be quite peaceful, away from the masses, a bit closer to nature maybe. I spent most of my young years on a bike on Hodge Hill common and my teenage skateboarding at Birmingham Wheels, so maybe it has always been there?*



**The Armada** Oil on Canvas 117 x 92 cm



The Armada  
(Detail)

### The Armada

*Rearing its head as you pass over the flyover onto Gravelly Hill from the expressway is the lovely Armada. Not the prettiest pub, but the location and the view are unique. When I see people enjoying a pint in the sun on the balcony I wonder whether they appreciate the backdrop or whether they are more interested in moaning about the footy?*





**The Bromford** *Oil on Canvas 51 x 41 cm*



The Bromford (Detail)

### The Bromford

*I grew up just up the hill from the Bromford estate, and I used to go down to the cycle track by the side of the motorway. It was an amazing place as a kid, a ready made racetrack at your disposal, but when I pass by now I find the whole place to be characterful. The backdrop of the M6, the tower blocks and pylons looming in the distance, and in Autumn the fallen leaves make it quite beautiful.*



**The Eagle and Tun, Bright Day** *Oil on Canvas 51 x 41 cm*



The Eagle and Tun, Bright Day (Detail)

### The Eagle and Tun, Bright Day

*I was at this location specifically to photograph the railway arches looking in the other direction towards The Rotunda, but on turning around the light was stunning, emphasizing the blackness of the brick on the railway in the shade, and also the red brick on the pub and the overgrown grass on the adjacent wasteland were bathed in a warm evening light, it was always going to make a beautiful painting.*



**The Playing Fields** *Oil on Canvas 51 x 41 cm*



The Playing Fields (Detail)

### The Playing Fields

I have many memories of playing fields like these from my youth, whether it was a school football match or a Sunday kick-about with mates. I also have memories of how threatening these places can be and of clashes with rival kids. The escape to the bus stop after beating Handsworth Wood at football was always interesting.

# **Reuben Colley Fine Arts**

50 & 52 St Mary's Row, Moseley, Birmingham. B13 8JG

Tel : 0121 449 3744

Email : [enquiries@reubencolleyfinearts.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@reubencolleyfinearts.co.uk)

## Opening Times

Monday - Open by appointment only

Tuesday - 10am until 6pm

Wednesday - 10am until 6pm

Thursday - Closed

Friday - 10am until 6pm

Saturday - 10am until 6pm

Sunday - 11am until 4pm